4

Ring of the Nibelung

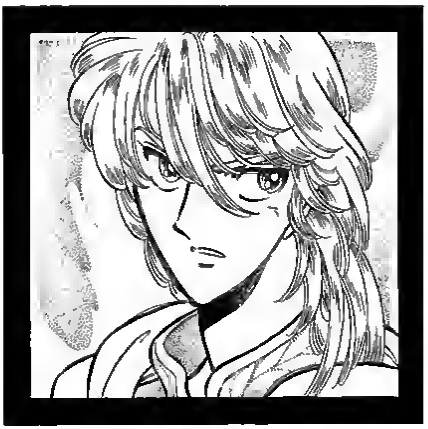
Volume 4

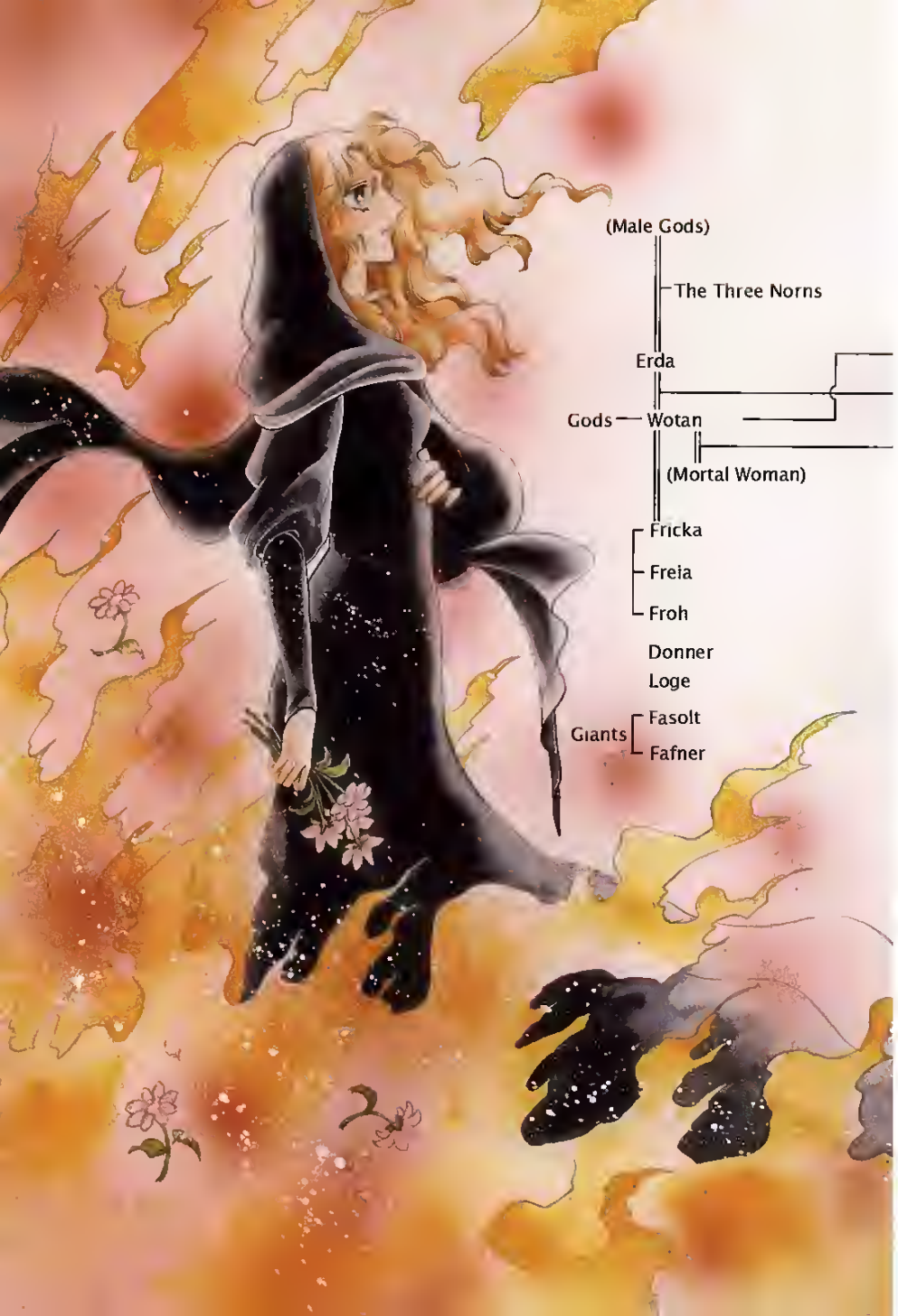
Third Evening: Twilight of the Gods

Ryo Azumi

Based on the opera by Richard Wagner

Ein Bühnenfestspiel für drei Tage und einen Vorabend "Der Ring des Nibelungen"





(Male Gods)
The Three Norns
Erda
Gods — Wotan
(Mortal Woman)
Fricka
Freia
Froh
Donner
Loge
Giants — Fasolt
Fafner

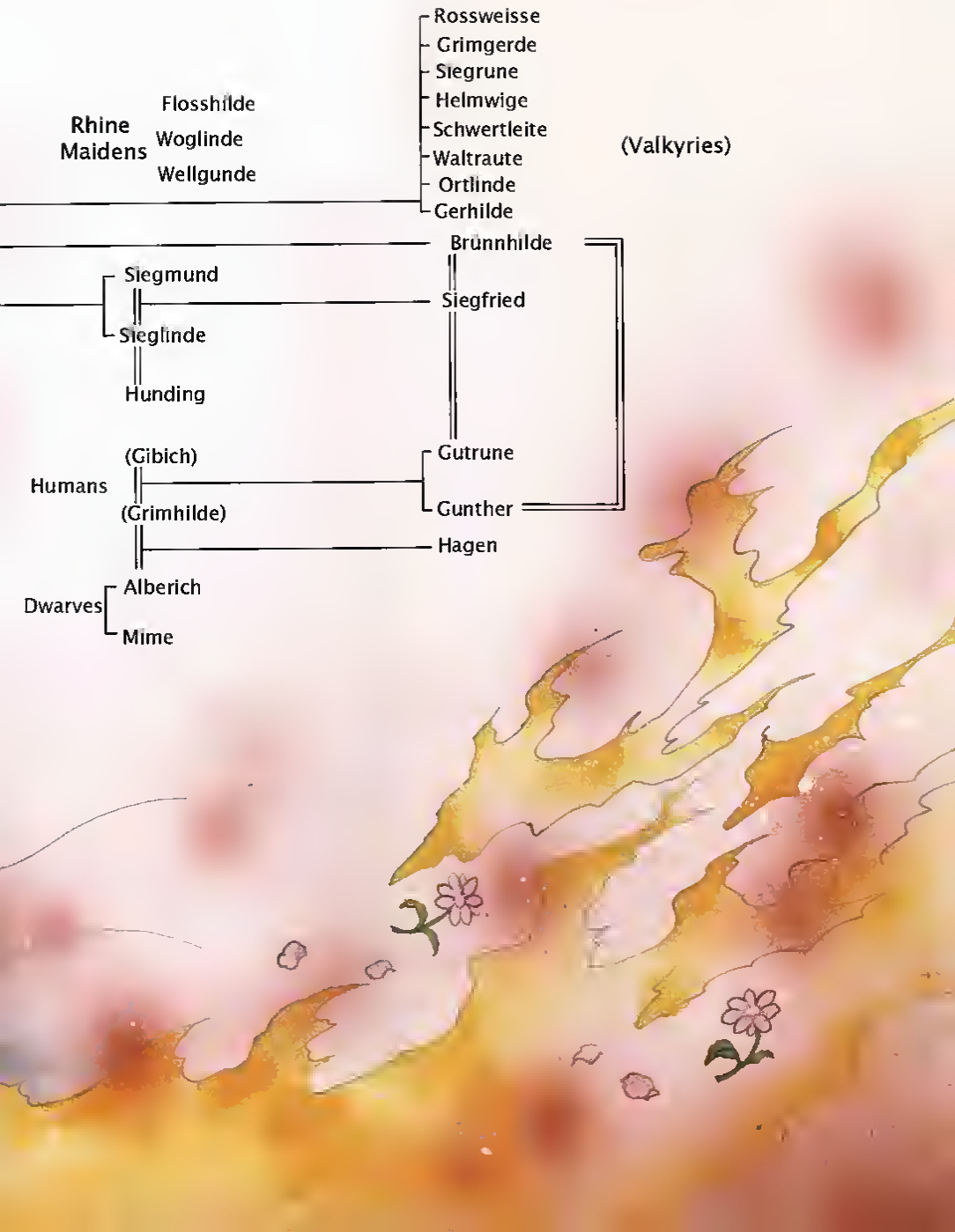
Rhine Maidens: Flosshilde, Woglinde, Wellgunde

Rossweisse
Grimgerde
Siegrune
Helmwige
Schwertleite
Waltraute
Ortlinde
Gerhilde
(Valkyries)

Brünnhilde
Siegmund
Siegfried
Sieglinde
Hunding

Humans: (Gibich), (Grimhilde)
Gutrune
Gunther
Hagen

Dwarves: Alberich, Mime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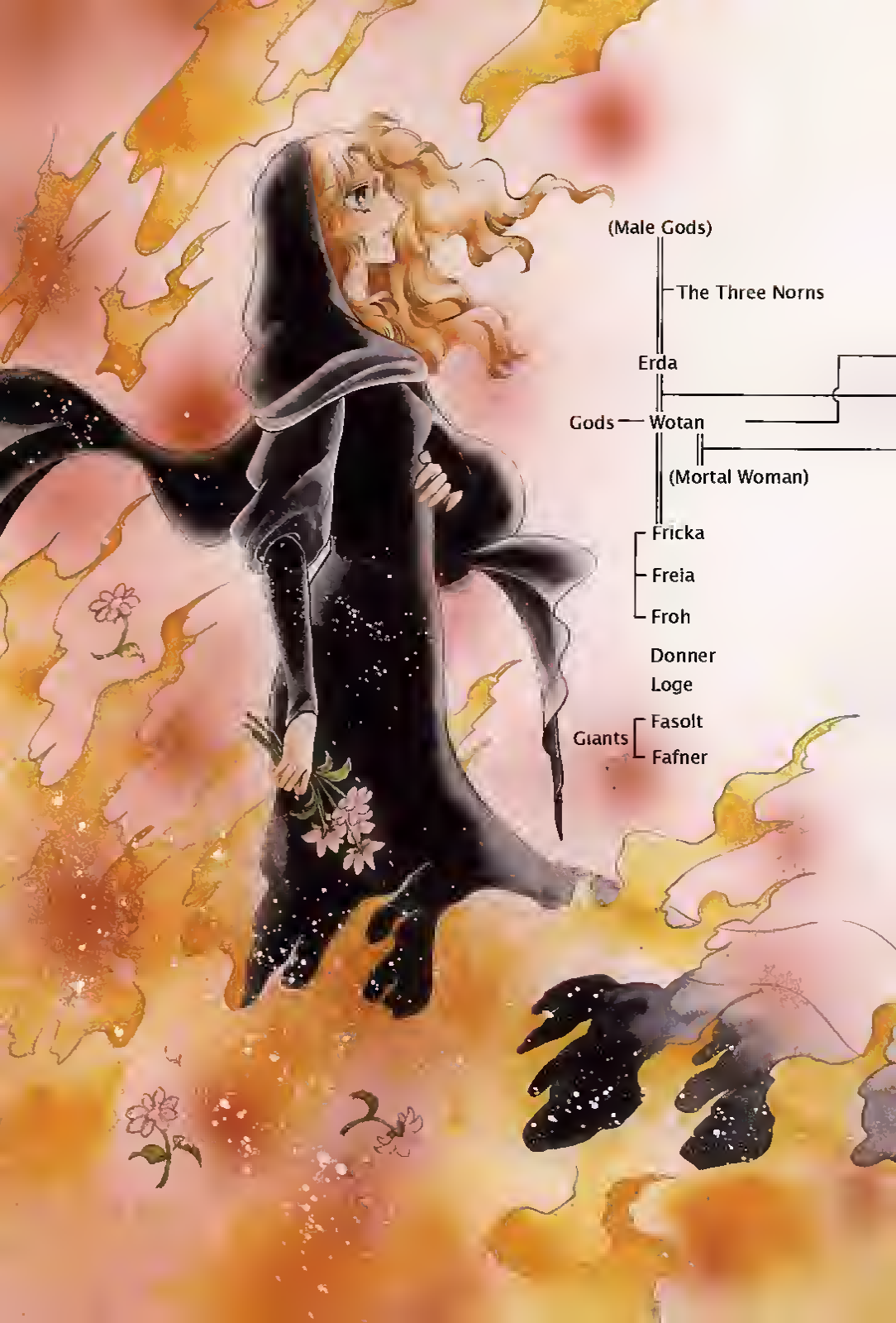
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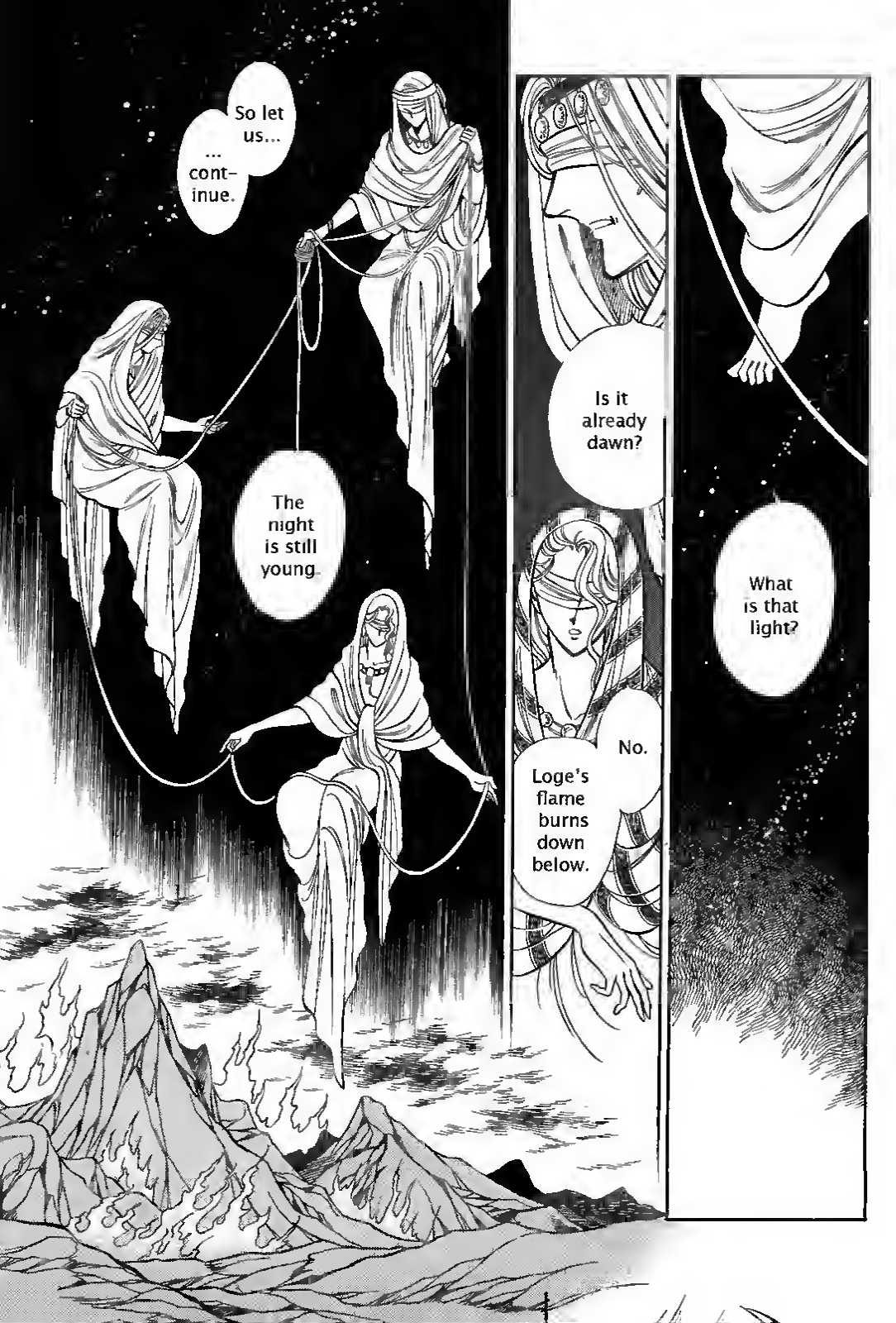

What is that light?
Is it already dawn?
No.
Loge's flame burns down below.
So let us...
...continue.
The night is still young.

The Ring of the Nibelung
Third Evening: Twilight of the Gods
VORSPIEL
Prologue
Let us spin the rope of fate...
And sing the song of time.

The Ring of the Nibelung
Third Evening: Twilight of the Gods

VORSPIEL
Prologue

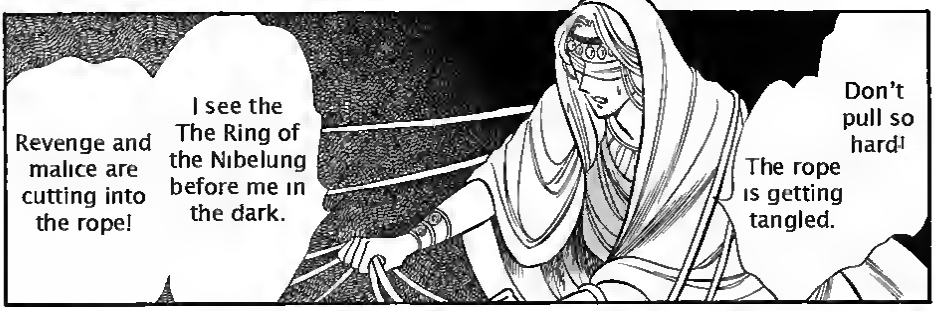
Yggdrasil, the World Tree, was once thick and lush...
And the spring of wisdom burbled under its shady boughs.
A bold god came to drink from it, and paid with his eye.
This god ...
Wotan... broke a branch off the sacred tree to fashion his spear.
As the ages passed ...
...the injured tree withered.
And the spring dried up.

Tell us, then, what became of it...
Sister of the present.
...
Wotan carved the runes of his sacred pact into the spear...
...and administered the world from its tip.
But now ...
A youth has cleaved it in two.
And Wotan's pact is ended.
What will happen next, sister of the future?
And then ...
...to chop down the blighted World Tree.
He calls now upon the warriors of Valhalla ...

In the halls of that towering fortress ...
Wotan will sit with his fellow-gods ...
The kindling from that once-hallowed tree will be heaped around Valhalla...
And a great fire will burn the fortress to cinders.
And thus the age of the gods will be ended

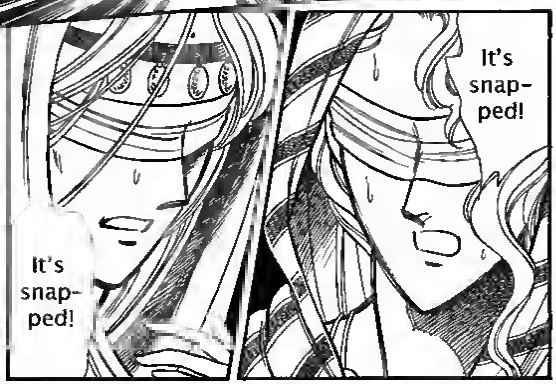
I no longer see so clearly.
The past of the gods has grown hazy.
It once glowed in the light of Loge's flame.
Where has Loge gone?
The rope returns ...
...to you, sister of the past.
Though he broke free once ...
... the magic of Wotan's spear now binds him ...
...to Brünnhilde's rocky resting place.
But...
Soon indeed he will turn his flames on Valhalla.

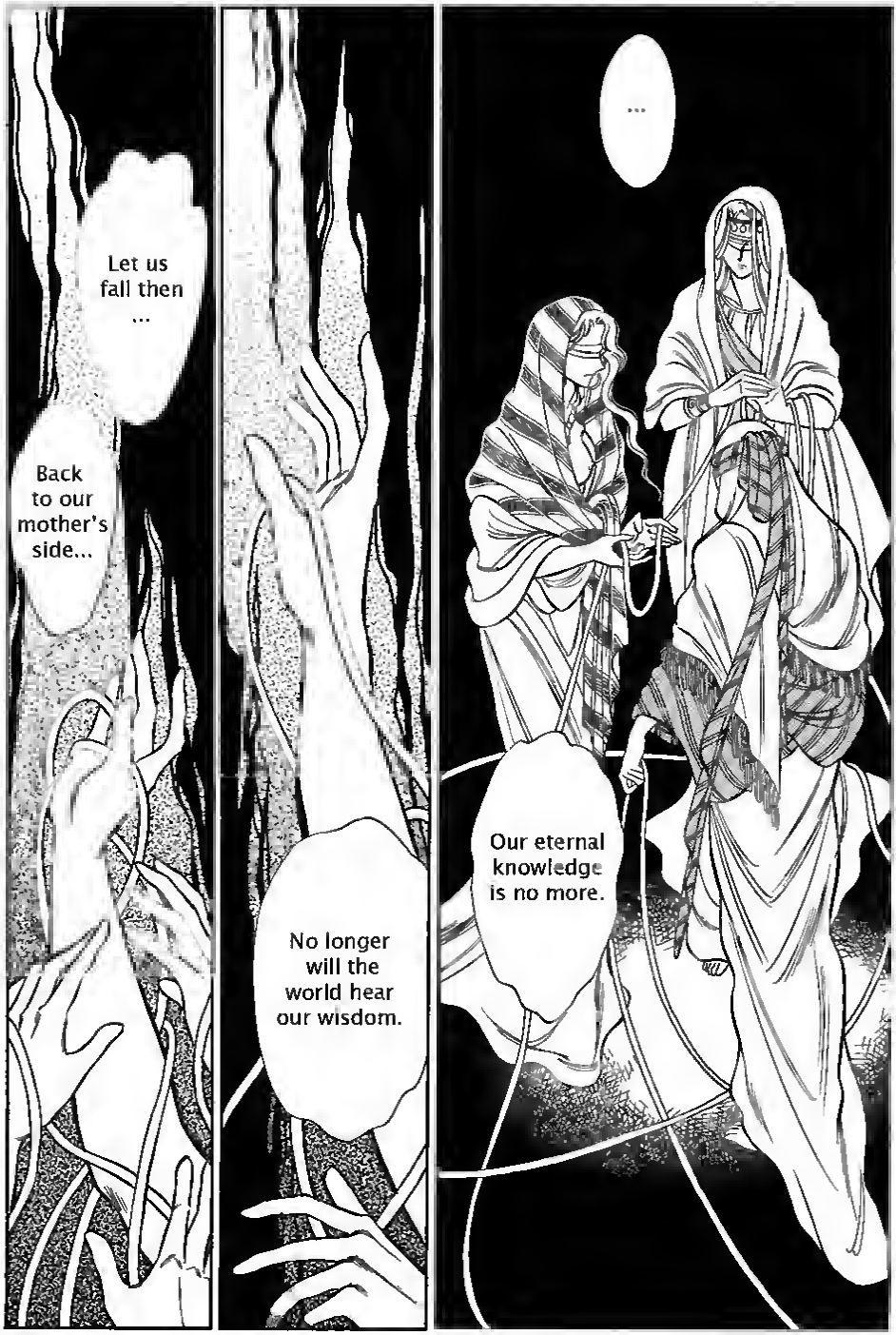
What ever became of Alberich?
I no longer see the past.
There is just this disturbing face...

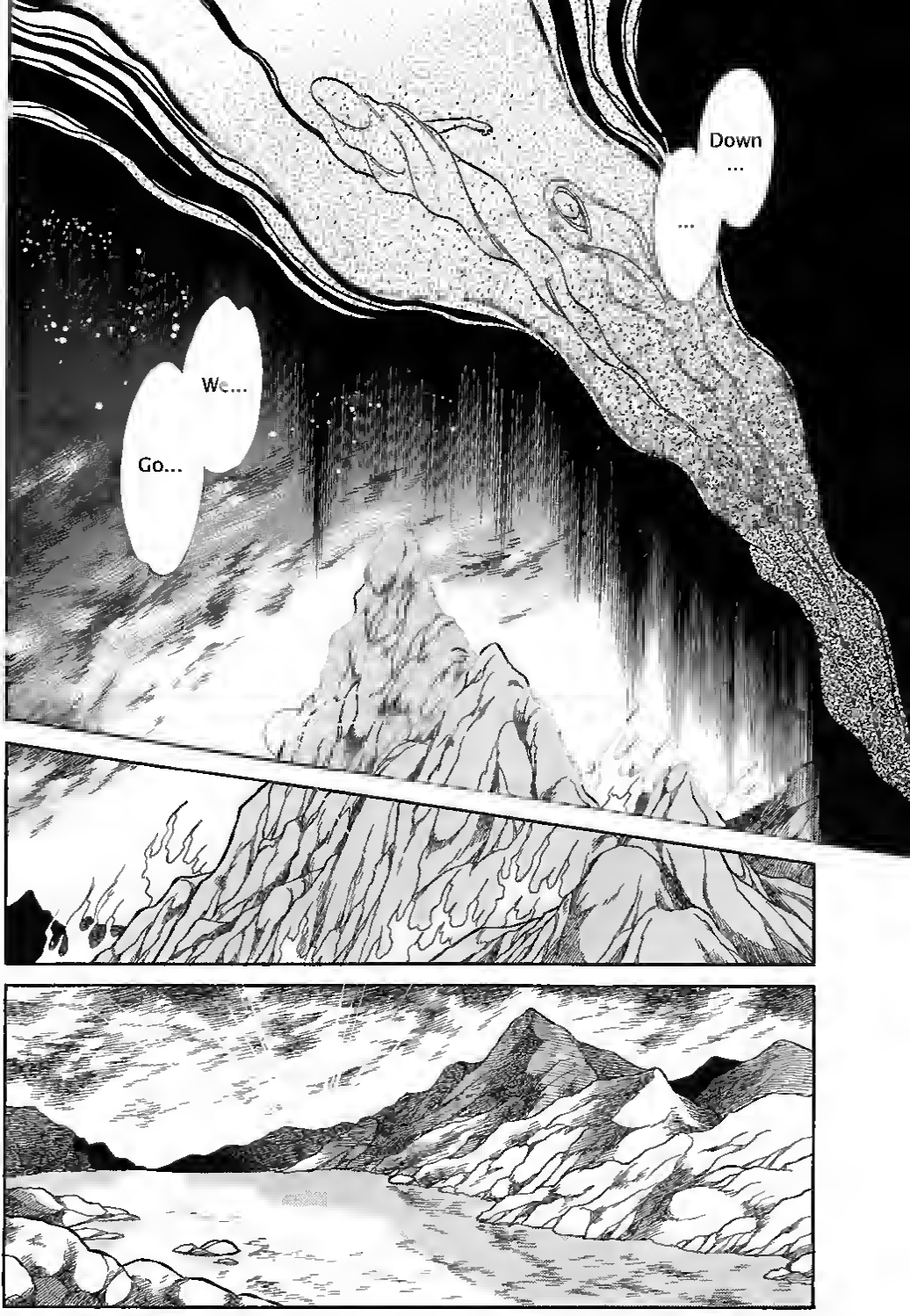

Revenge and malice are cutting into the rope!
I see the The Ring of the Nibelung before me in the dark.
The rope is getting tangled.
Don't pull so hard!

I'll have to pull it ha...
It won't reach me.
The rope is too slack.

...
It's snapped ...!


It's snap-ped!
It's snap-ped!

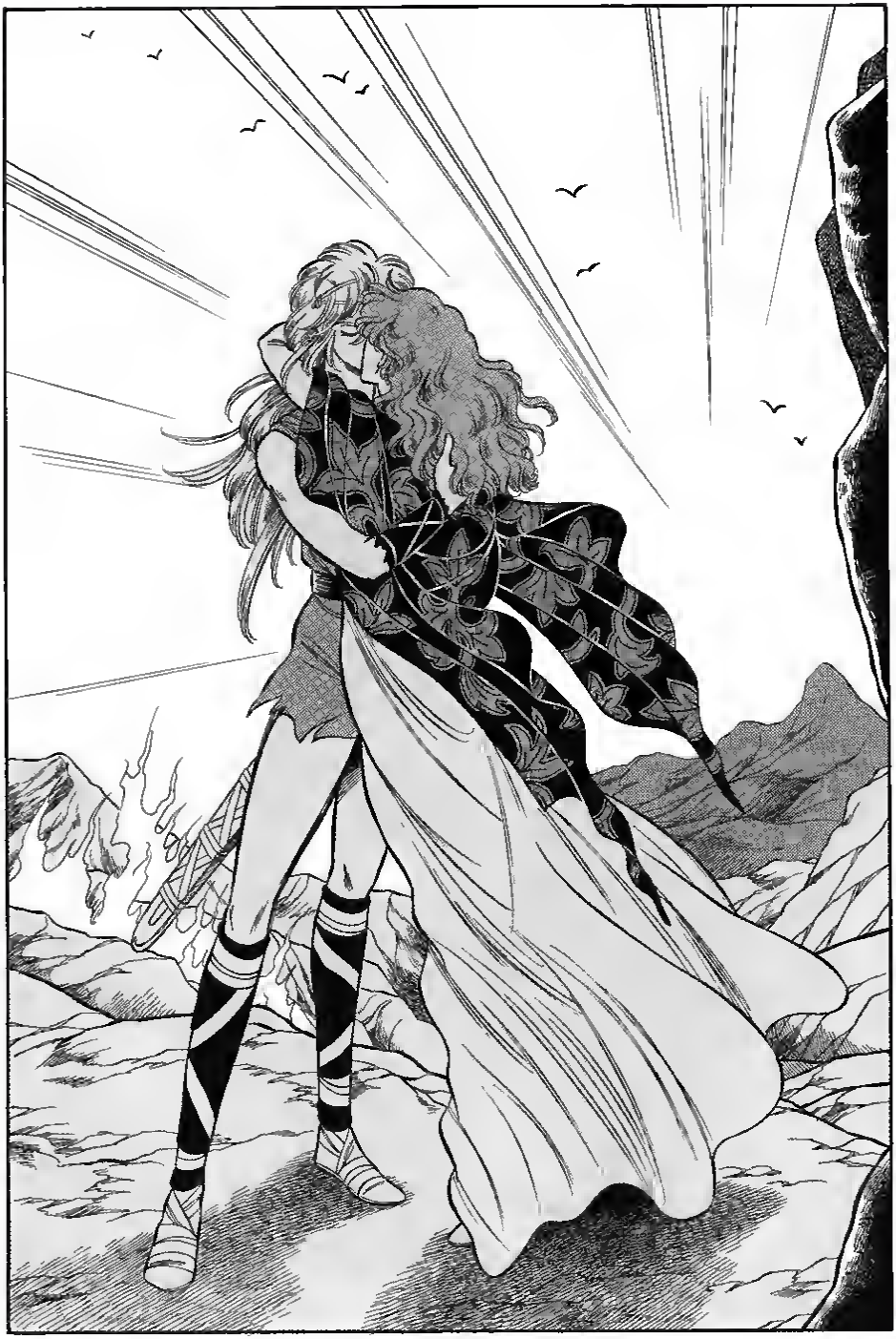

Let us fall then ...
Back to our mother's side...
No longer will the world hear our wisdom.
...
Our eternal knowledge is no more.


Down
...
...
We...
Go...

You ...
...can't stop gazing at it, can you, Siegfried?
I've only ever known the forest.
I'm curious about the world.
Like, what's on the other side of the Rhine?
Are there towns?
Bigger forests?
Adven-tures?
Oh, Siegf-ried...
As much as I love you...
...I know I can't keep you from heading out.

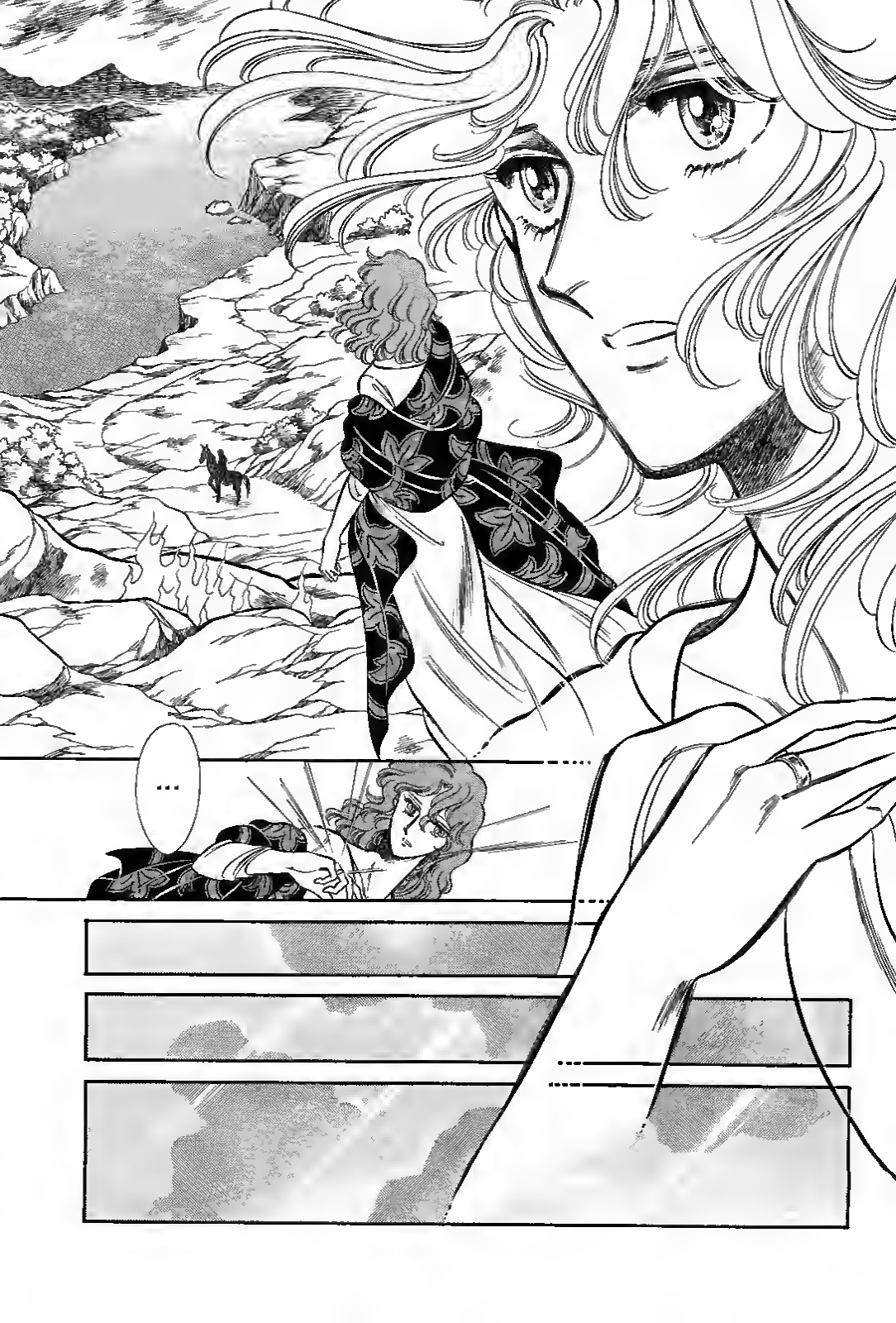
FWISH
Brunn-
hilde!
I have
nothing
left but
my love
...
I've
given you
all I have...
my divine
knowledge
and
maidenly
virtue.
I'm just
worried
about one
thing...
That you'll
forget about
me.
...it's you,
Brunnhilde!
If there's
one thing I'll
remember,
even if I forget
everything
else...
SHAAA
Never in
all my days
could I ever
forget...
...our love!
Never!
Never?

Think of how you...
...came through the fire.
To rescue my Brünnhilde.
Think of how you...
...took off all my armor.
To wake my Brünnhilde.
Think of our vows, our faithfulness...
Think of our love ...



Good luck on your travels!
You're the only luck I need.
You'll be forever with me in my heart ...
...for we are one and the same.
So you're ...
...both Siegfried and Brunnhilde?
That's right.
Wherever I go, you'll be there too.
Makes no sense.
Then this rocky abode will be empty.
Wherever you are, I'll be there!
A-HA-HA
Take this ring...
...Brunn-hilde.
With it I pledge never to forget you.
I'll cherish it, my sweet.

Here I go!
Off to adventure and glory!
HA!
KA-LACK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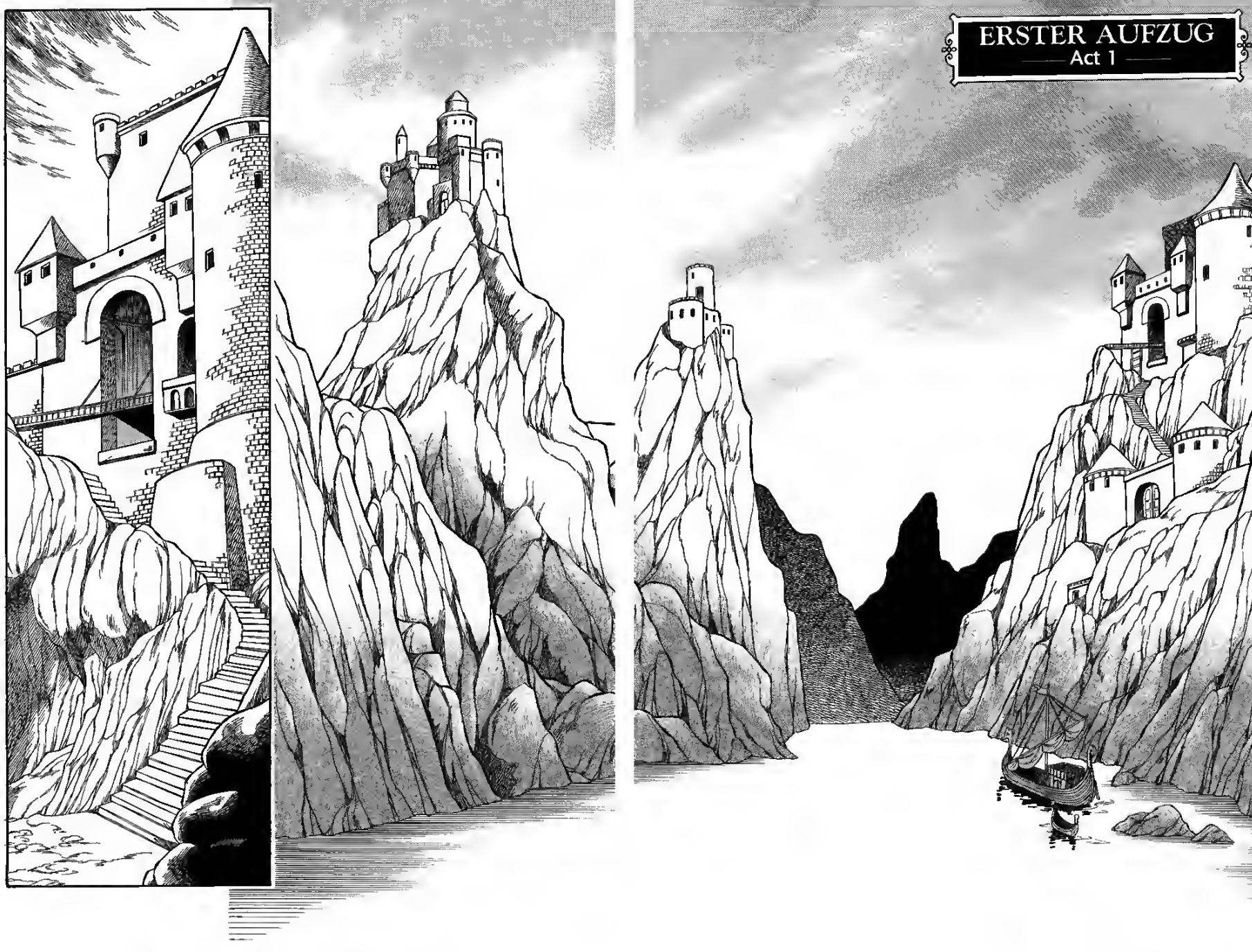
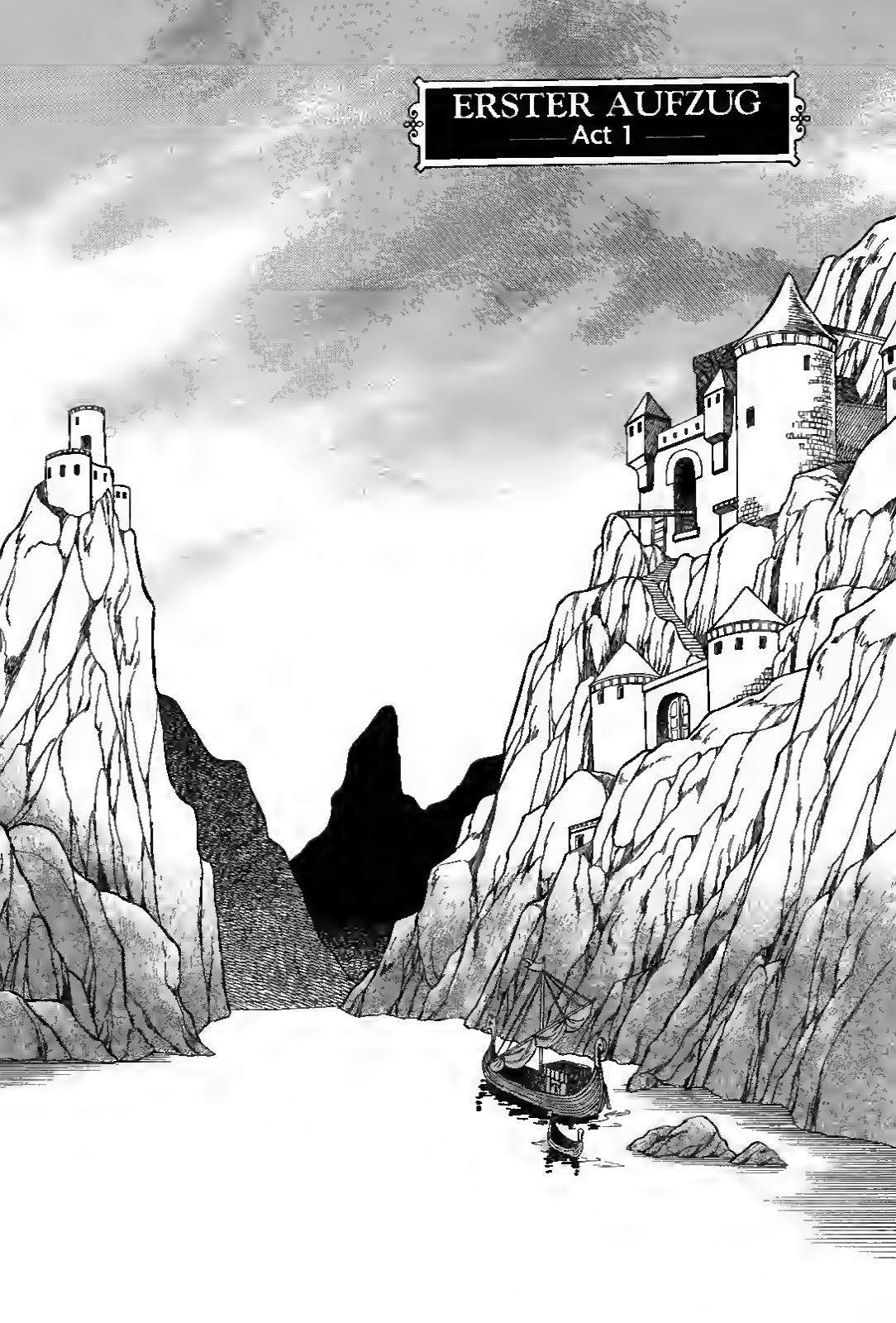

ERSTER AUFZUG
Act 1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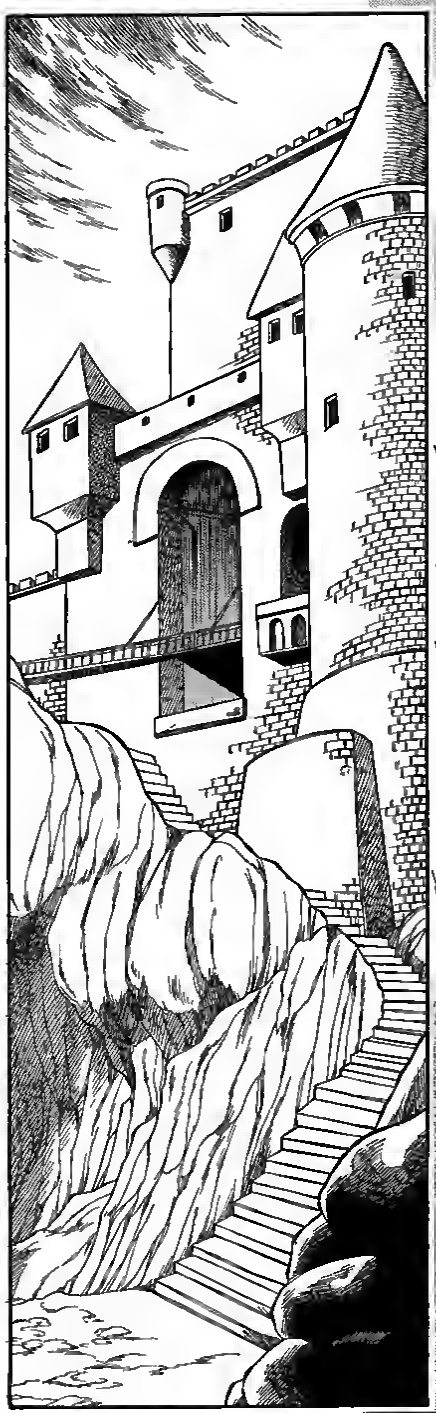
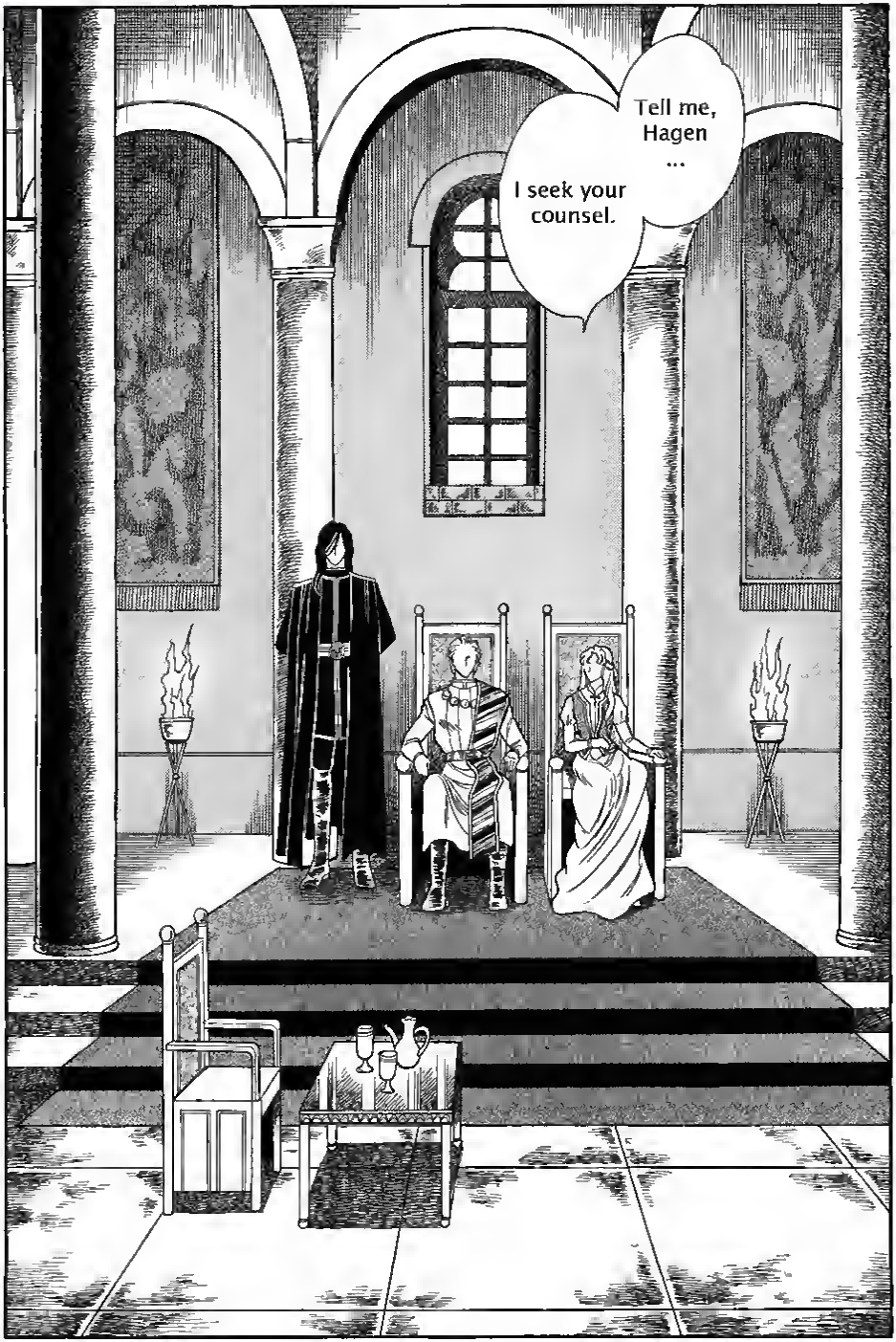



Tell me, Hagen ...
I seek your counsel.

You have nothing to be ashamed about. You are the rightful ruler here.
I envy you for that.
Have I done anything in my territory along the Rhine...
...to bring shame upon the house of Gibich?

There is still a valuable treasure which eludes ...
...the house of Gibich.
Then I obviously haven't helped enough.
No, it is I who envy you.
I inherited this as the firstborn ...
...while you were blessed with wisdom.
If I am often at odds with my half-brother, I nonetheless appreciate his help.
And what is that?
AHEM
So...
...it's time for me to find a wife, is it?
GRIN
Gunther, you are still unmarried.
The same goes for you, Gutrune.

And I happen to know the most beautiful woman in the world.
Brunn-hilde is her name.
She lives at the top of a tall mountain ...
...where s he is protected by a ring of fire.
Only he who steps through the flames...
...can make her his bride.
And you think I could do this?
No.
But a braver man could.
Siegfried could.
Siegf-ried...
Who's that?
RRHN
Who,then?

He's the perfect match for Gutrune.
Siegfried... the Volsung!
GASP
W-what makes him such a brave man?
Well, he faced the dragon guarding the Nibelung treasure at the Cave of Envy ...
...and killed it with his mighty sword.
This deed made him a hero.

The flames will submit to no other.
And only he can win Brunnhilde?
Yes.
The ring that can conquer the world.
So Siegfried has it now?
I've heard of that Nibelung treasure.
SLAM
... Hagen!?
Why are you telling me this...
Why tell me about something that...
...I can't have!?

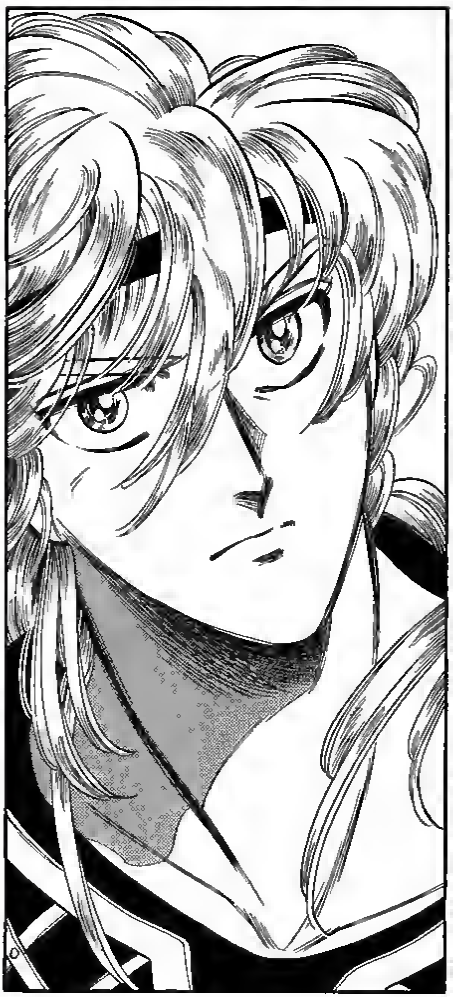
What if I told you Siegfried would bring her to you?
FWIP
But ...
...is that even possible?
What?
Gutru-ne.
Don't tease me, Hagen.
I'm not nearly pretty enough...
Of course.
He would gladly do you the favor...
...once Gutrune has seduced him.

Gutru-
ne...
Have you forgotten that potion in the little box?
The one I brought you?
What do you think will happen to Siegfried ...
... when he drinks it?
He'll fall head over heels for you.
And no memory of any other woman will remain.
He'll be a slave to your love.
Well, Gunther ...
Isn't it a brilliant plan?

But where can we find him?
Shh!
HEH HEH
Praise our mother...
...for giving us a brother like you!
I hear the sound of a horn.
It's coming from downs-tream.
Oh, I'd really like to meet Siegfried.
This world is just another forest for him to explore on his travels.
And so here he comes to the land of the Gibichungs.

A boat with a horse on it...
Is it really him?
See how he darts up the river.
How surely and swiftly he rows ...
Only one man could row with such power. The dragon slayer... Siegfried.
Then let's greet him.

On my way to see the son of Gibich.
Ahoy, down there!
Where are you going?
I'll bring you to him.
Moor your boat over there.
THWOK
FSHHH
FWISH

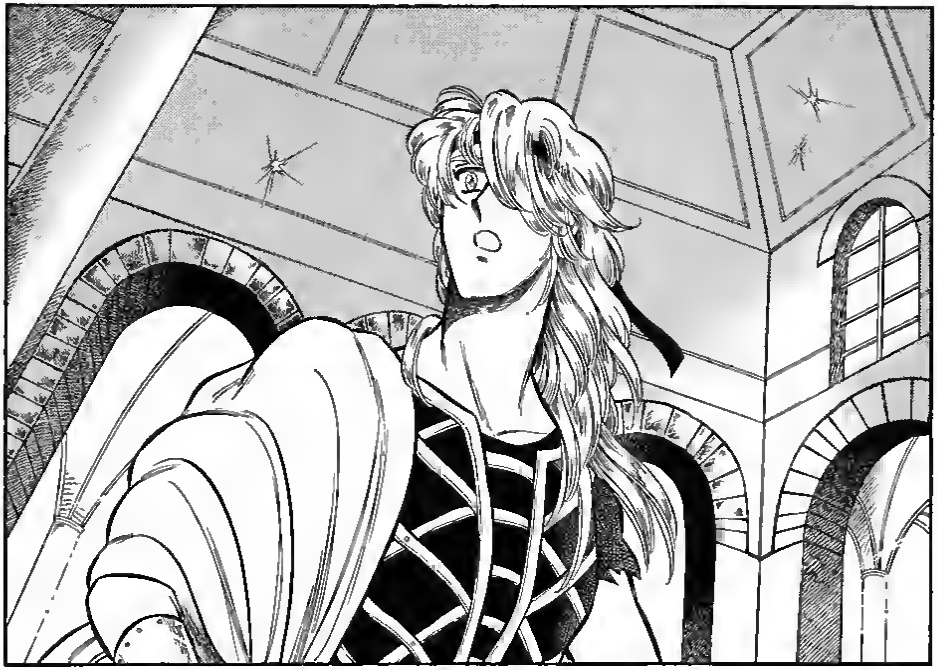


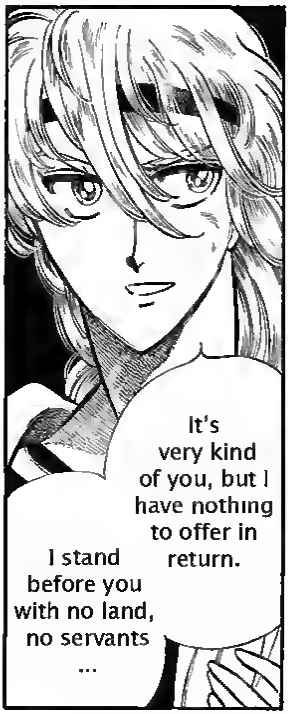
Welcome!

We're so glad you've come...
...Siegfried!

Where is Lord Gibich?
Please, call me Gunther.
GRIN
I came to see if you live up to your renown.
Shall we duel? Or be friends?
Oh no, there's no need to fight!
Let me welcome you in friendship.
You called my name before.
Have we met?
No... I only had to see the way you rowed to know you were Siegfried.

This is the hall of my forebears.
I bid you make yourself at home.
...
It's time...
WINK



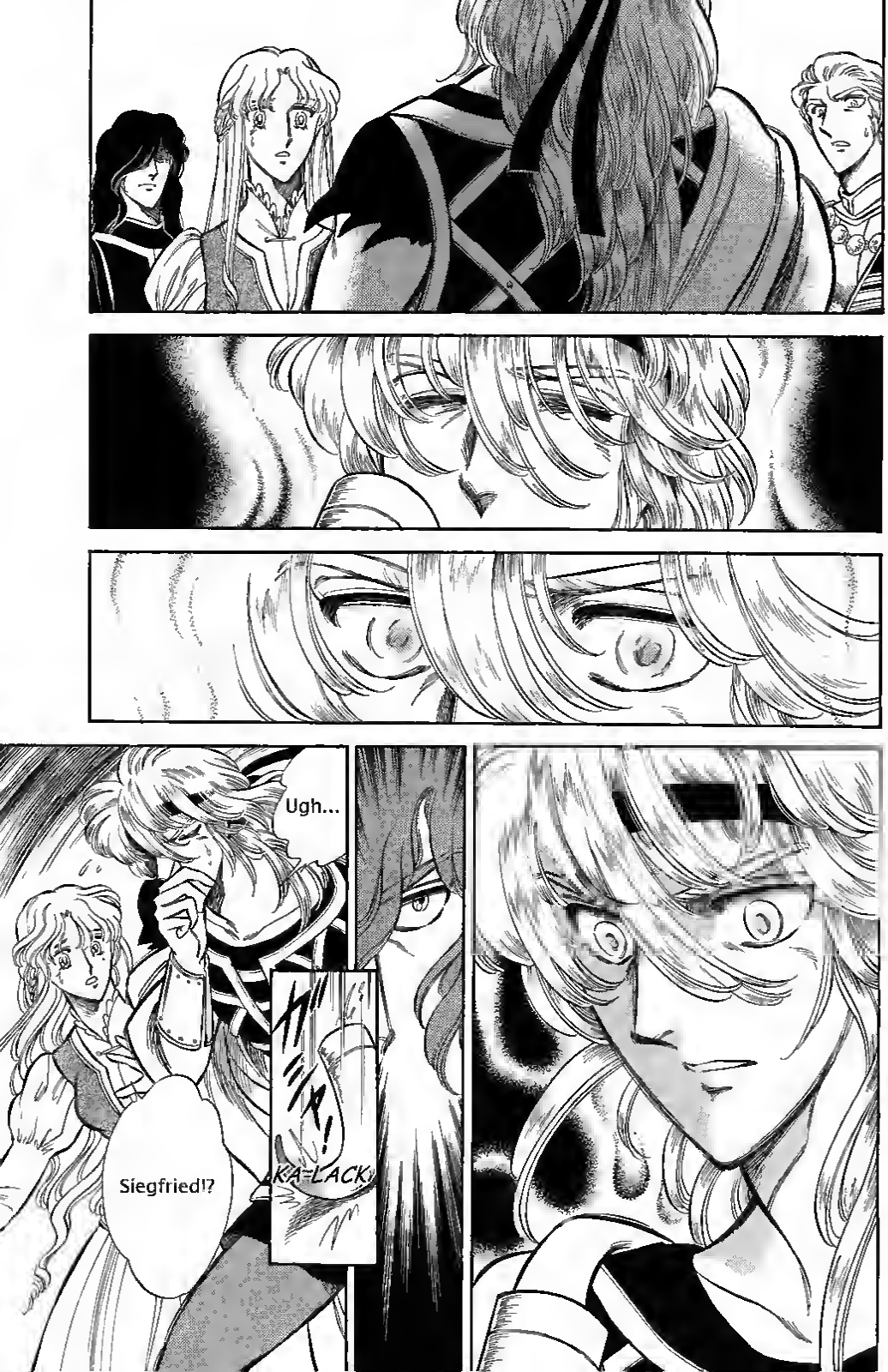

I stand before you with no land, no servants ...
It's very kind of you, but I have nothing to offer in return.

Every-thing you see is...
...at your disposal, Siegfried.
Ha ha, slow down ...
Lord Gun-ther.

They definitely don't make them like this in the forest.
This is... wow!
Ha Ha Ha Ha
Please... My home is your home.

Well, there's this.
But I don't know what to do with it.
That's the Tarnhelm. A helmet of invisibility and magical disguise.
Any-thing else?
Oh, that... Ha.
I left that in the dragon's lair.
Come to think of it
So you didn't take anything?
Well, you do have...
...the Nibelung treasure, or so they say.
Just a ring.
Oh, I gave it to someone.
Where is it!?
Siegfried.
I wouldn't dream of taking anything from you.
All of my wealth is nothing compared to your bravery.
Brunn-hilde!

Thanks.
May I offer you a drink?
Welcome to our home.
KREE
My sis-ter.
GULP
Brunnhilde... If there's one thing I'll remember, even if I forget everything else... it's your love.
So I drink to that. May we love each other always!
GLUG
GLUG


Ugh...
カッ!
(KA-LACK)
Siegfried!?

FLASH
Why do you turn away?
No, wait. Please! Close your eyes.
It makes my heart race.
Your gaze is like lightning ...
A "good rune" indeed.
Please... You must be my wife!
Gun-ther...
What is her name?
She is Gutrune

Ugh—Can you believe this guy?

BLUSH
Well ...
I...
It's just ...
What a fool! The potion's already taken effect.
Sieg ...!
What a sudden turn of events!
...
Gunther... Are you not married?
Not yet.
I mean, there is a woman but...
I don't know how to win her heart.
Let me help you.
I'm sure there's a way!

She lives at the top of a high cliff ...
At the top ... of a... high cliff ...?
And she's protected by a ring of fire
...a ring...
...of...
...fire ...?
...
...
...
THROB
Only he who steps through the flames...

...can make Brunnhilde his bride.
...
I'm afraid I can't do it.
I can't risk getting burned.
I'm not afraid of fire!
I'll make you an offer. If you let me marry your sister, I'll bring that woman back for you.
By all means, marry my sister... But how will we fool Brünnhilde?
With this!
I'll use this helmet to take your shape.

SSST
Here. We'll make an oath of it.
A blood oath!
May the blood we boldly shed...
...bloom to brotherhood in this wine.
May he who breaks his oath ...
...pay his brother back in blood.

Did you not want to join in our oath?
GLUG
Agreed!
Ag-reed!
SHUCK!
My blood would spoil the wine.
It is not as pure as your own.
It lies cold and still in my veins ...
...so I keep it away from warm-blooded vows.
No ...
The sooner I get back, the better.
You don't want to rest?
All right, then. Let's go!
HA HA HA
Don't mind this gloomy fellow.

Hagen.
Mind the castle for me!
He can't wait to wed you, so off he goes.
To get Brünnhilde.
Siegfried ...!?
Hagen...
Where are they going in such a hurry?

I sit here...
...and mind the castle.
...
While the son of Gibich hastens away...
...in search of his bride.
A fierce warrior steers them...
Taking all dangers upon himself ...
So he can bring his own wife here to the Rhine for his friend to marry.
...
And with her he brings me the ring...
Blithe young men...
Carefree companions ...
Happy sailing to you!

Look down on me all you want.
Because in the end ...
...you will do all my bidding for me...
...a wretched Nibelung's son.

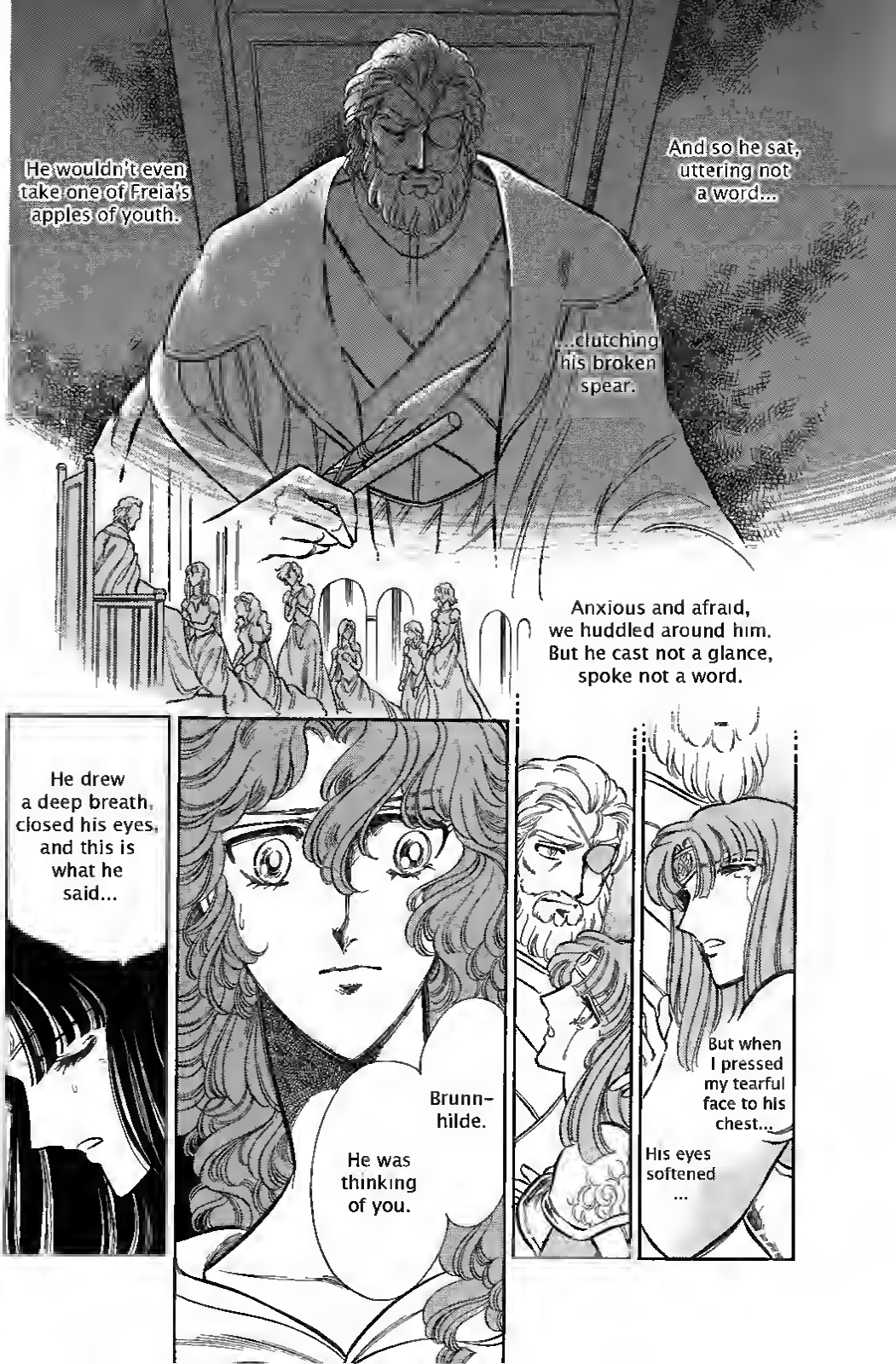
Looks like a storm ...
GASP
RUMBLE RUMBLE
"ゴロゴロ..."

That's Walt-raute!
Brunn-hilde!
Are you awake?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
That's the sound of a Valkyrie's horse!
I'm here!
Here, sister!

It's really you!
To what do I owe this...
...magnificent surprise, Waltraute?
There is urgent business.
SQUEEZE
Well ...
I've known that his anger has softened ...
You didn't disobey father on my account, did you?
Or has his anger softened a bit?
Brunnhilde.
I mean, he heard my plea and protected me with that ring of fire.
Without it, I would never have met Siegfried or found happiness.

...as Father's wrath...!
I wish it were as simple ...
Father is still angry? Is that what this is about?
Then ...
Stop this!
There are far more pressing concerns.
Tell me what's happened!
What is it, Waltraute?
...
...and wandered the world alone.
He disguised himself...
He avoided everyone.
Wotan stopped sending us to battle.
After your falling out...

Not long ago, he came back to Valhalla...
...carrying the pieces of his spear.
First, he ordered the heroes of Valhalla into the forest. They cut down the World Tree for kindling...
...and stacked them high around the fortress.
He called a meeting of the gods.
He sat gravely on his throne ...
...and made us sit nervously by.


He wouldn't even take one of Freia's apples of youth.
And so he sat, uttering not a word...
...clutching his broken spear.
Anxious and afraid, we huddled around him. But he cast not a glance, spoke not a word.
He drew a deep breath, closed his eyes, and this is what he said...
Brunn-hilde.
He was thinking of you.
But when I pressed my tearful face to his chest...
His eyes softened ...

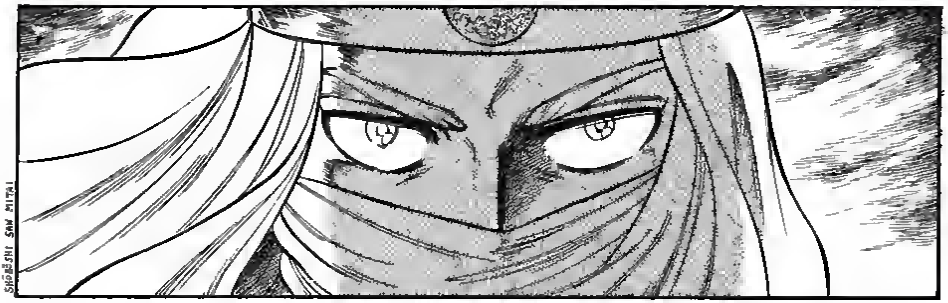
"If only she would return the ring to the Rhine Maidens...
"...then the burden of its curse would be lifted from the gods, from the world..."
...
Please, sister.
End this anguish that afflicts the gods.
Only you can help.
...and now I'm here. No one knows.
So I stole out of the silent assembly ...

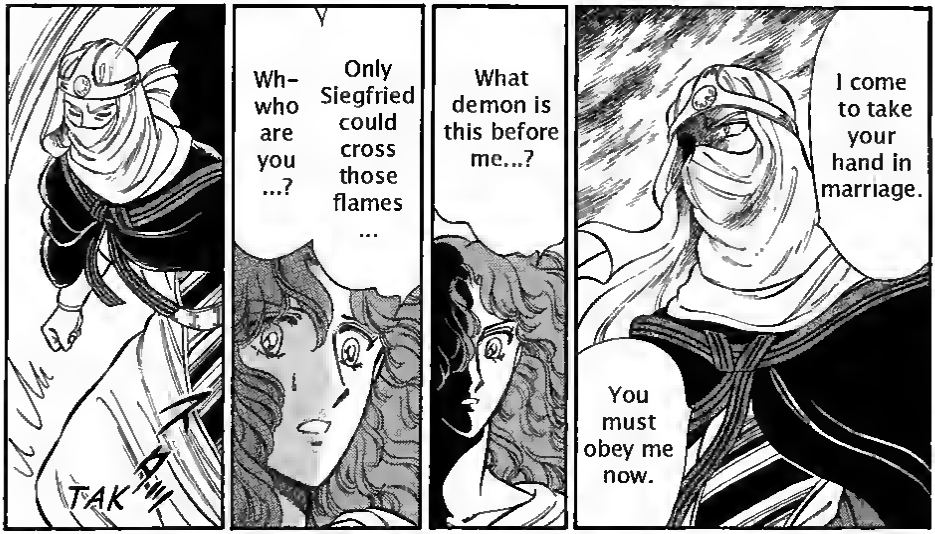
Return it to the Rhine Maidens!
Throw away ...
...my ring!?
Just ... throw away ...
... that ring!
What do I have to do...?
That ring is deadly. It's evil.
Throw that cursed thing into the Rhine!
You don't know how much this means to me.
I can't!
Brünnhilde!
Go back to Valhal-la!

I don't care if...
... Valhalla crumbles.
I'll never part with this ring!
So away with you Go!
Siegfried gave me this ring.
It's a symbol of our love.
I treasure it more than all the happiness of the gods.
Sister!
SOB

Father ...
"If only she would Return the ring..."
Don't come back ...
It'll take more than the gods to steal my love away.
GROOAR
KRAK POP
It must be him...
Siegfried has returned!
OH
I hear his horn!
What's happening? Why is the fire roaring like that?

SWIP
GASP
SWF
Who are you...!?



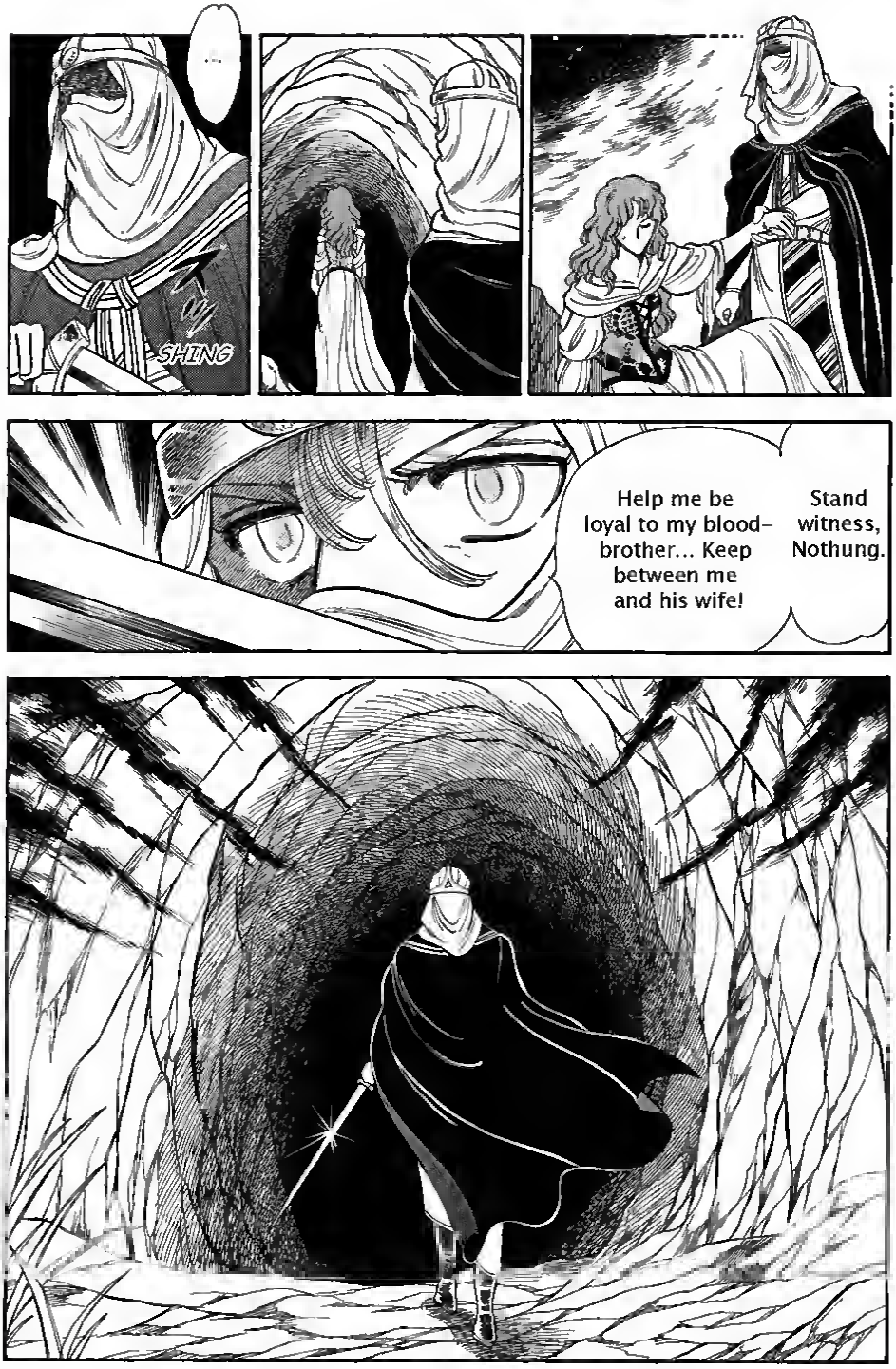

I come to take your hand in marriage.
You must obey me now.
What demon is this before me...?
Wh-who are you ...?
Only Siegfried could cross those flames ...
TAK

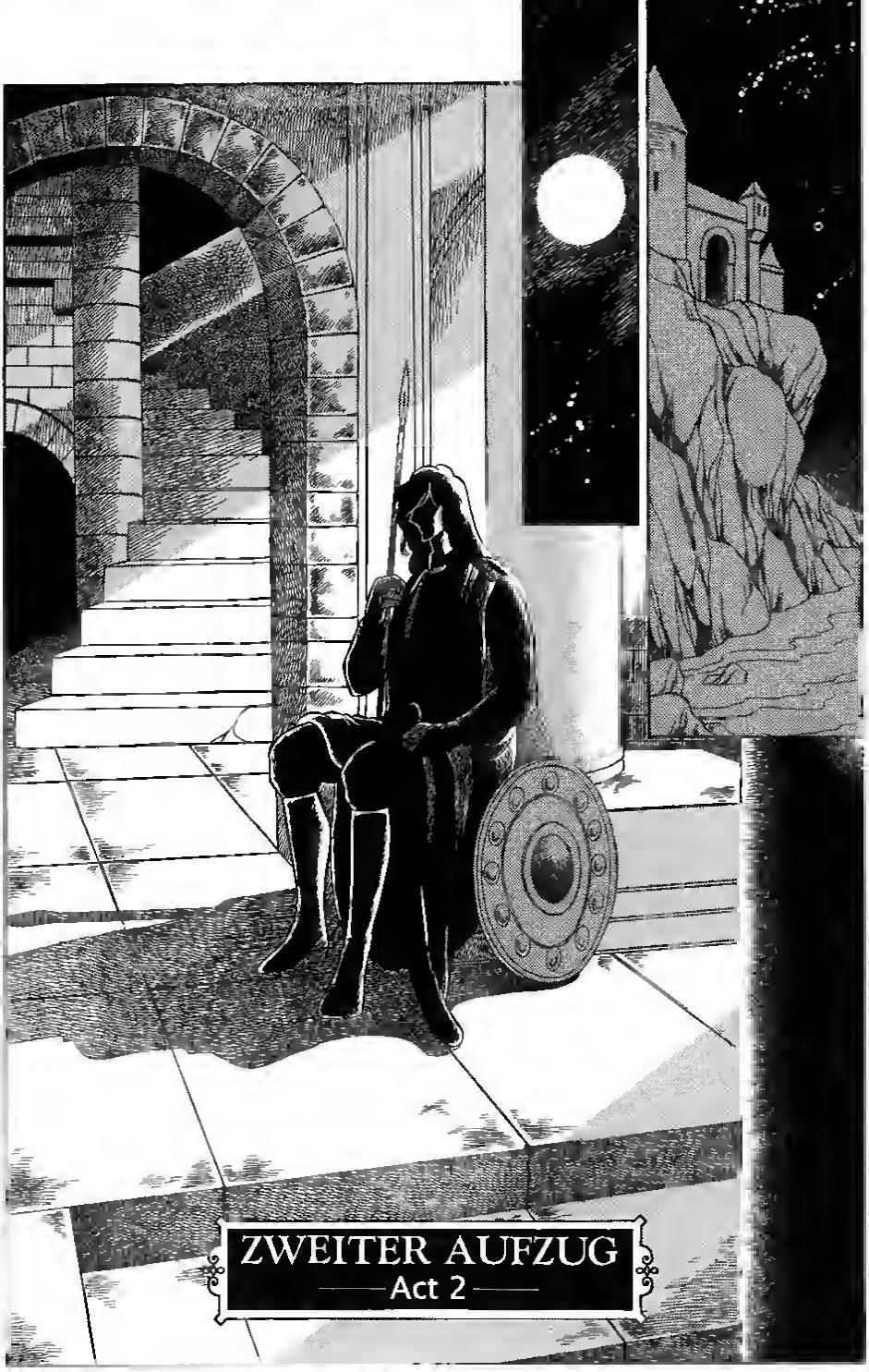
I am Gunther, son of Gibich.
We can do this the easy way...
...or the hard way. It's up to you.
SWF

We'll see.
You'll never take me as long as I wear this ring!
Don't come any closer!
It is night.
You will show me to your cave.
This ring makes me stronger than steel.
Back, you horrid thief!
Then I'll have to take it from you.
No...!

SMACK
SKRICH
Are you so heartless, Wotan?
Aaaahh!
Is this how you've decided to punish me...!?

YANK
...
What a wretch I am!
How could I defend myself?
Now you are mine.
You'll show me to your room now, won't you?
...
THUD
UNH!


...
SHING
Help me be loyal to my blood-brother... Keep between me and his wife!
Stand witness, Nothung.


ZWEITER AUFZUG
Act 2

FRSHHH
Hagen, my son.
Are you asleep?
...hateful wretch
I hear you ...
Why can't you let me rest?
... hear me in your dreams?
Can you not ...

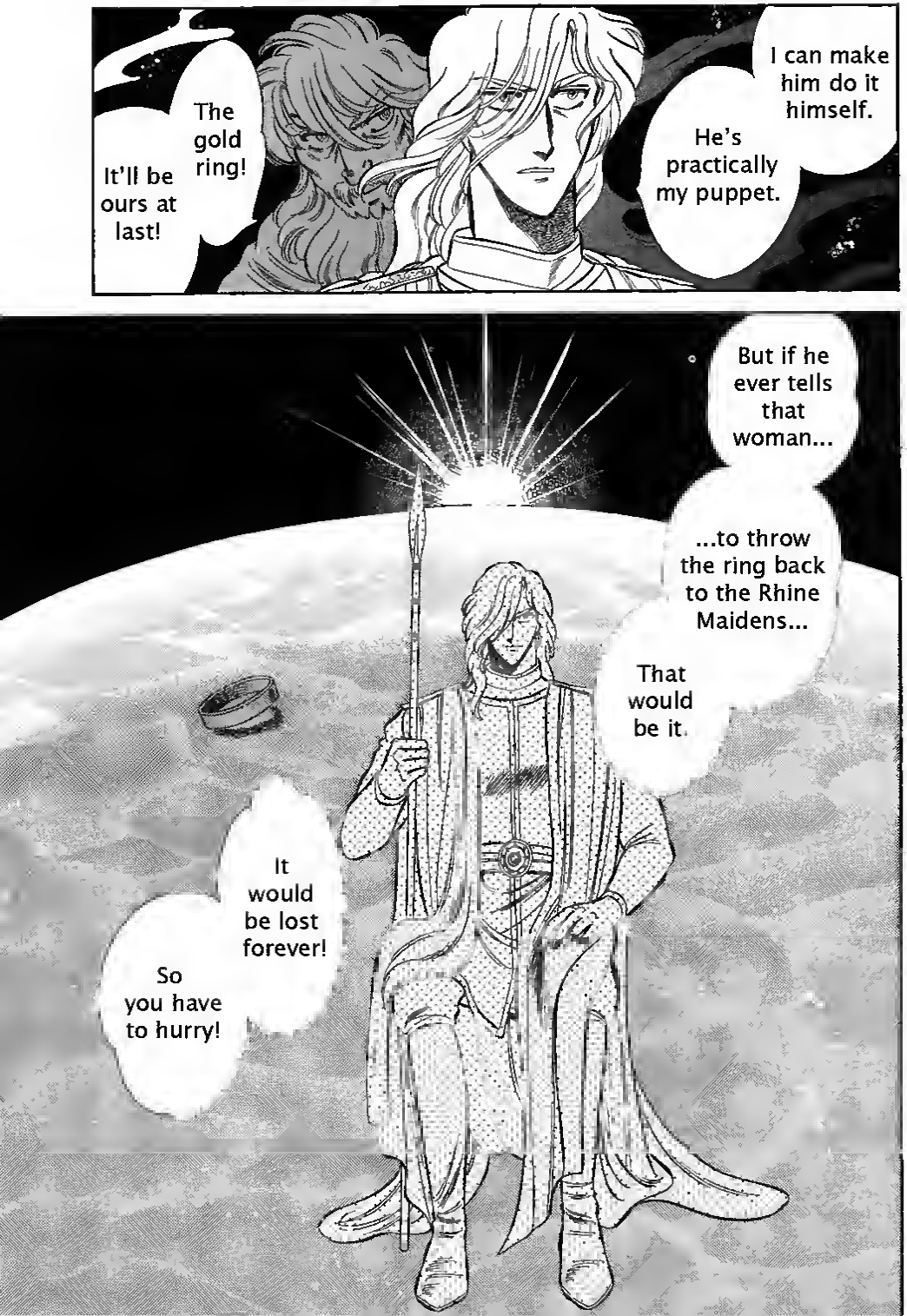
Don't forget the tremendous power you possess.
It's the reason your mother delivered you...
To wield it in my name.

And hear this ...
Wotan's been laid out by one of his own descendants.
Serves him right for stealing my ring.
They're already licked.
...sit around waiting for the end.
Now he and his fellow gods...
Hagen
Do you ... see how you take after me?
You should despise the cheerful ...
...I've never known a moment's joy
I'm aged beyond my years and ...
I feel no obligation toward her
Woe to the woman who fell for your tricks
For you are strong and clever...
Oh, how our enemies will suffer!

Hagen
Do you ... see how you take after me?
You should despise the cheerful ...
For you are strong and clever...
Oh, how our enemies will suffer!
...I've never known a moment's joy.
I'm aged beyond my years and ...
I feel no obligation toward her.
Woe to the woman who fell for your tricks.

And hear this ...
Wotan's been laid out by one of his own descendants.
Serves him right for stealing my ring.
Now he and his fellow gods...
...sit around waiting for the end.
They're already licked.

Are you asleep?
My son.
Hagen ...
If you're as loyal as you say...
...then our malice and anger are as one.
It's up to you to kill that foolish little Völsung.
... and you!
Me ...
Do you know who's going to replace the gods?


I can make him do it himself.
He's practically my puppet.
The gold ring!
It'll be ours at last!
But if he ever tells that woman...
...to throw the ring back to the Rhine Maidens...
That would be it.
It would be lost forever!
So you have to hurry!

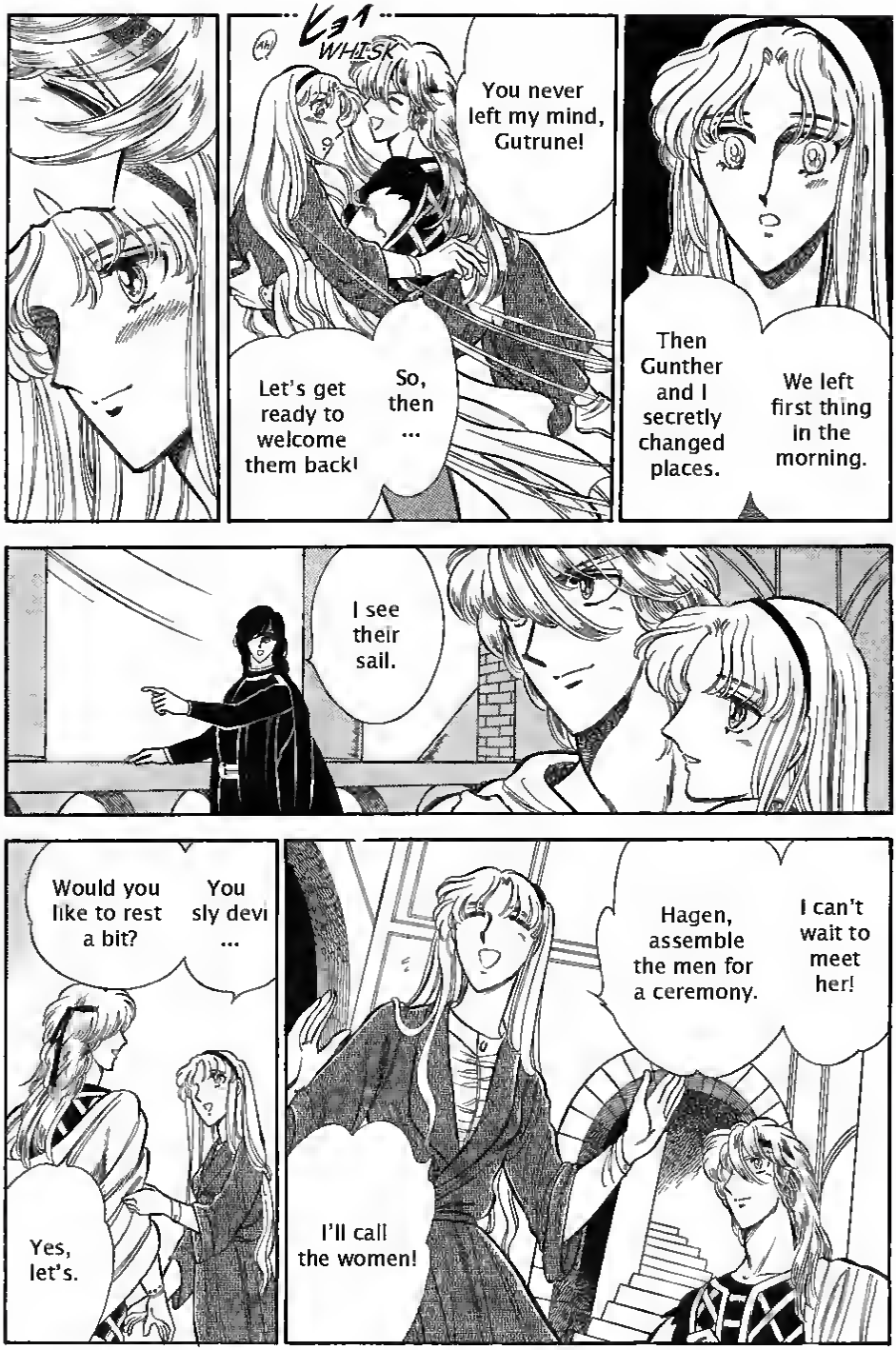
Time to reap ...
...the hatred I sowed in you.
Avenge me... Get the ring...
Do it to spite Wotan and that Volsung!
Hagen ...
My son.
Do you serve me?
Do you swear it?
SHOOM
Stop your worrying.
I'll get the ring.

Will you swear it to me?
Brave son.
Hagen ...
VOOM
I'll keep my promise to myself.
Take your worries elsewhere!
My son...
Hagen ...
I'm counting on you.
I know you'll...
... keep your ...
...pro-mise.
...

...
SPLOSH!

Sieg-
fried
...
You
travel
fast.
Hey!
Hagen.
You
look
tired.
SWF
I took
a breath
at Brunnhilde's
rock...
...and used
it to say hello
to you just
now.
That's
how fast
I got
here.
The
other two
are trailing
behind.
So it
went well,
I take it?
Yup.
Say... Is
Gutrune
awake?
Gutrune!
Siegfried's
back.

I'm happy to see you...
...daughter of Gibich.
Now that Gunther has a bride ...
We can be together.
You mean ... He won Brünnhilde's hand!?
The flames didn't burn him?
SHHH
Actually, I did it for him.
I used the Tarnhelm like Hagen said and disguised myself as Gunther.
I told you it would work, didn't I?
No!
He's telling the truth!
But I didn't lay a finger on her.
I mean, she was next to me...
As she looks on doubtfully
That means ... you spent the night ... with her... in disguise ...


WHISK
You never left my mind, Gutrune!
So, then ...
Let's get ready to welcome them back!
We left first thing in the morning.
Then Gunther and I secretly changed places.
I see their sail.
You sly devi ...
Would you like to rest a bit?
Yes, let's.
I'll call the women!
Hagen, assemble the men for a ceremony.
I can't wait to meet her!

Hear ye!
VROOO
Hear ye!
VAH-ROOO
Awake now, servants of Gibich...
...and take up your arms!
!HRRRAAA
A crisis is at hand!
Gather at once!
VROOO

What is it?
Why does he call us?
Hagen.
Hagen.
We've brought our weapons ...
Hagen.
Are we under attack!?
Is Lord Gunther in danger!?

Was Gunther in a battle!?
No one is pursuing them.
Did he win?
Siegfried the dragon slayer...
... kept him safe.
Why do we need these weapons!?
MRRM
Then why are we here!?
Ready your weapons and greet your lord.
For Gunther has taken a bride.
What!?
Are they being chased here?
To slaughter bulls for the ceremony!
And offer their blood to Wotan!
A boar for Froh ...
A goat for Donner ...
And a sheep for Fricka... to bless their marriage!

What would you have us do then, Hagen?
What should we do after that?
I'd have you fill your drinking horns...
...and keep refilling them until everyone is...
... happy and singing!
Sing the gods' praises so they ...
... sanctify this marriage!
わっはっは
AH-HA HA-HA
はっはっは
HA-HA HA

HA HA HA
わはは
Truly a great joy visits the Rhine!
What happiness!
It must be a happy day if even ... Hagen is in high spirits!
...
Okay, everyone!
A warm welcome to Gunther's bride.
Brunnhilde is set to arrive!
We must pledge her our loyalty!
All hail!

RAAA
RAAA
All hail Lord Gunther!
Welcome home!
Hurray!
HRAAA
Hail Lord Gunther and his bride!
Hurray!

Loyal subjects, I present to you now a woman of peerless grace...
Brunn-hilde!
The gods have truly blessed us...
...for a more wonderful woman has never lived.

HRAAA
わあ
Long live the Gibichungs!
Hurray!
Sister ...
Seeing you two together fills me with happiness.
Here's to two lucky couples.
To Brunnhilde and Gunther ...
And to Gutrune and...
... Siegfried!

Siegfried...!
Did you say... Gutrune !?
Sieg-fried ...
...is...
... here?
?
!?
ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR

Whoa.
SWOON
This is too ...
She's your husband's sister...
...and my wife.
Gun-ther ...
You really ... don't know me?
Sieg... ... fried ...

The ring!
S.W.F
Here, take a moment.
Your wife seems ill.
How did you get a hold of it...?
This man stole it from me on the mountain.
That ring...
How did it end up on Siegfried's ...?
But how ...?
MURMUR
Let the woman speak.

Aren't you the one who took it!?
Isn't that why I'm marrying you in the first place?
GLARE
...
What ring?
Ring?
Where did you put it?
Lord Gunther!
MURMUR
ざわ
ざわ...
Uh...
So that's it.
I've figured it out!

That was Siegfried all along.
He was only...
...disguised as Gunther.
You've got it all wrong.
I didn't take this ring from her.
It's the spoils from my ...
...battle with Fafner the dragon.

What cruel betrayal is this!?
I've never felt so humiliated ...!
I'll have you torn to pieces, Siegfried!
Brünn-hilde.
He must be punished for breaking his friend's trust.
...then Siegfried must have cheated him out of it somehow.
If you really gave that ring to Gunther ...
Calm yourself.
Get back, traitor! No ...
You too have been deceived.
Everyone, listen to me.
I am not Gunther's bride.
I'm already married to Siegfried!

We've already lain together ...
...as husband and wife!
She's lying!
What!?
Okay, I did trade places with Gunther to cross the fire.
But Nothung lay between me and this woman...
...and I kept my oath to my friend.
Nothung, you say!?
You don't want to bring that sword into this.
AH HA HA

While its owner wooed me...
...trusty Nothung was in its scabbard ...
... hanging peacefully on the wall.
No...
I know that sword well indeed.
MURMUR
Has he disgraced Gunther?
Did he break his oath...?
Prove you're innocent!
Fine!
I will put these accusations to rest!
RAAA
Does she speak the truth!?
This can't be...
Siegfried, tell me she's lying!

SWIP
I'll swear on it!
Who will offer his weapon?
Here ...
You can swear it on my spear.

I swear now on this spear-point ...
Hono-rable weapon ...
Hear my eternal oath!
FWOOSH
If what this woman alleges is true...
...and I have betrayed my brother ...
You may...
...pierce my beating heart.

I too swear on this spear!
I endow this spear with divine power ...
Hear me ...
SWAP
...in the hope that it kills Siegfried!
...and sworn falsely ...!
He has broken his vows...

End this dizzying shame!
KRRRAAA
Send a storm this way!
Donner, God of Thunder!

Heh, um ...
Gunther ...
Please control your wife.
If she's going to get this angry, I don't want to argue with her anymore.
There's no fooling her, I'm afraid.
Maybe I didn't have the Tarnhelm on right.
But she'll get over it soon.
You'll see. She'll be glad she married you.

We must celebrate this happy occasion!
Now then! To the banquet!
RAAA
...

...
FOOSH

What awful demon ...
...
...is behind this trickery?
How did it ever ...
...come to this?
My wisdom ...
...avails me not.
It's ...
It's all over...!

SWIP
That shameless little... How could he treat me like this?
Like some possession to give away when he's through...!?
How?
I'll take care of him.
Sieg-fried?
You will?
Brunn-hilde.
You can trust me.
I will avenge you.
Ha! You and what army?

He bore false witness.
My spear will not forget that.
True and false ...
It's all just words.
You'll need more than a spear to kill him.
I know he would defeat me in combat ...
This is why I'm asking your advice.
...
The magic I wielded still shields him from harm.
...
So nothing can hurt him?
...and he doesn't even know it.
He walks around impervious to injury...
Well, nothing in battle ...
But ...
...

Then that's where I'll put my spear!
You might kill him ...
...if you stabbed him in the back.
...so I never thought to apply the spell to his back!
He'd never turn tail and run from an enemy...
FWISH
You've just married this magnificent woman.
Why are you moping around?
Hey, Gunther ...

You coward!
I won't deny it.
It does look pretty bad ...
Argh ...!
I feel so stupid ...
...so ashamed!
You were too afraid to cross the fire yourself.
How did such a noble house end up with a spineless creature like you?
I deceived ... and was myself deceived!
I betrayed ... and was myself betrayed!
Hagen!
Help me...!
Arrgh! My bones are broken and...
...my heart is crushed.

GRIP
Help me restore my honor...
...
Hagen.
In our mother's name, help me...!
Only Siegfried's death can save you now.
Only that will cleanse this stain.
Sieg-
fried's
...
...
death
?

Now that it's broken, it must be paid in blood.
Did he break his oath?
He betrayed you.
He betrayed me?
But ...
W-we ...
...swore a blood oath.
All I desire now is one man's death.
All the blood in the world couldn't redeem you.
He betrayed you...
...and all of you have betrayed me.

WHISPER
It has tremendous power.
This is to pave the way for your happiness ...
Once he dies, the ring is ours...
It's the The Ring of the Nibelung.
Brunnhilde's ring?
His death is our windfall.
But must Siegfried die...?
Siegfried must die!
His death will atone for your sins.
She deserves whatever happens!
That conniving little...
That's why ...
But ...
I gave her to be married...
Poor Gutrune ...!

I'll propose we all go for a hunt tomorrow.
No doubt he'll jump at the chance and race ahead.
... we can't let her find out, Gunther.
Perhaps then he'll meet the boar that...
... carries him off!
In a manner ...
...of speaking.
HRAA
...

Come on!
All-seeing Wotan! Help us exact our revenge!
Praise them!
HRAAH
His time is up. Let us finally have the ring.
If you are truly master of the ring, lead the Nibelung horde once more!
Keeper of the dark, father of defeat, lord of the Nibelungs! Watch over me, Alberich!

RAAA
To a lifetime of happiness!
Hurray!
Yes! Siegfried must die!
Pay then with your blood, Siegfried. We are brothers no more.

RAAA
To a lifetime of happiness!
Hurray!
Yes! Siegfried must die!
Pay then with your blood, Siegfried. We are brothers no more.

Come on!
All-seeing Wotan! Help us exact our revenge!
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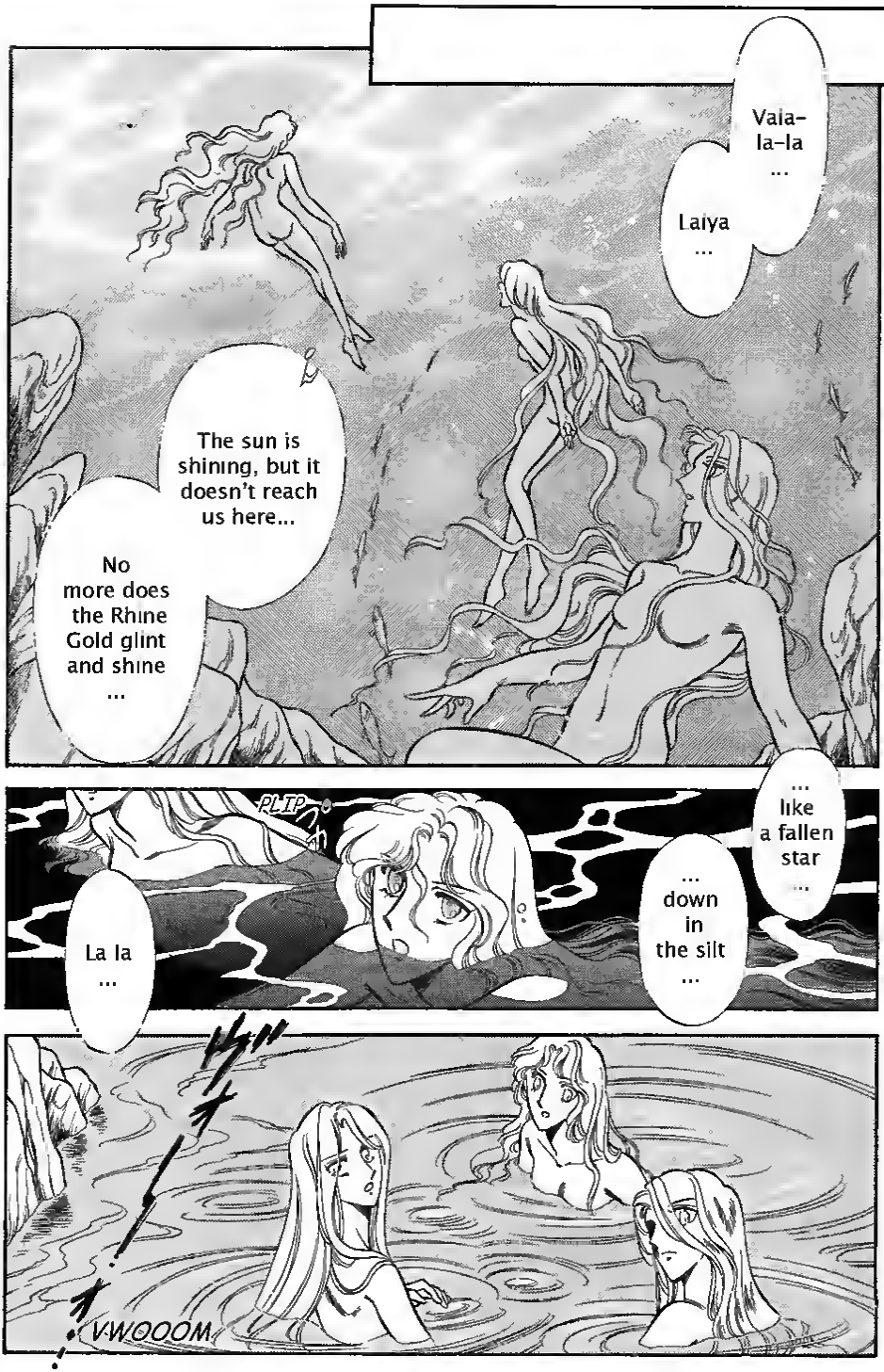
His time is up. Let us finally have the ring.
If you are truly master of the ring, lead the Nibelung horde once more!
Keeper of the dark, father of defeat, lord of the Nibelungs! Watch over me, Alberich!

Death to
Siegfried!

DRITTER AUFZUG
Act 3
The ravens of Wotan have taken flight ...
They fly back ...

...to the gods ...
...to deliver the message of destruction.

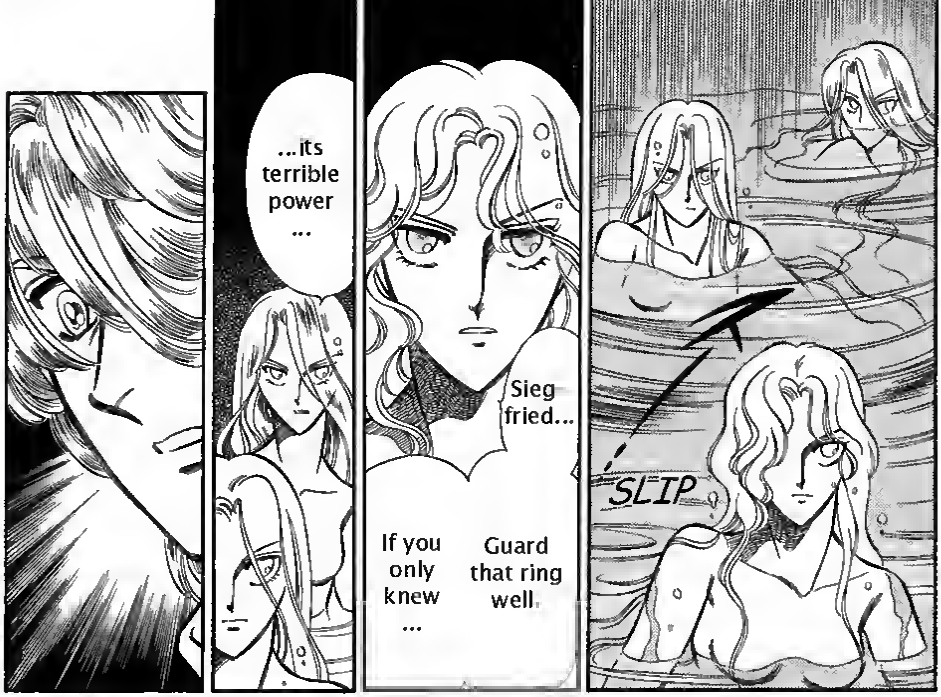

Vaia-
la-la
...
Laiya
...
The sun is shining, but it doesn't reach us here...
No more does the Rhine Gold glint and shine
...
PLIP
...
like a fallen star
...
...
down in the silt
...
La la
...
V-WOOOM

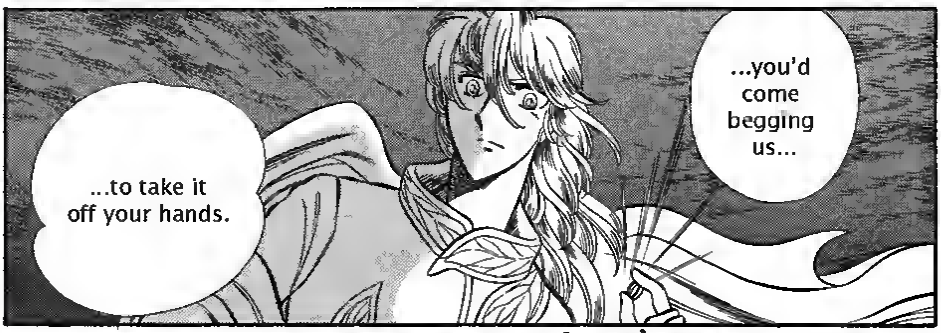
Oh, sun goddess ...
SPLOSH
Send us that man...
The one who will return our gold.
If he gives back our ring ...
...we'll no longer be jealous of your light.
Hey, that's his horn.
VROOO
He's coming.
PALOOP
Not only have I lost my prey...
...I think some goblin is playing a trick on me.

Sieg ... ... fried ...
You look upset.
PLUP PLUP
PLIP
What kind of goblin was it?
Not a water nymph, I hope?
Well, Siegfried?
Say, you didn't happen to...
...seduce the animal I was chasing?
I mean, if he was your friend ...
...you can have him.
GIGGLE
キャハハハ
AH HA HA
HEH

Yeah, give it to us.
That shiny gold ring of yours.
What would you give us?
Supposing we gave him back ...
What do you want?
No way.
I had to slay a huge dragon for this.
My wife would be angry if I lost this.
Is she really that mean?
You're supposed to be generous to women.
Hey!

I'm not giving you this ring!
Laugh all you want!
AH HA HA
He looks like he's already been slapped.
I bet she'll hit him.
GIGGLE
He's cute ...
And strong ...
And charming ...
Too bad ...
...he's such a cheap-skate!
Hey! Come back.
You can have the ring.
SQUINCH
I won't stand for this!
Rrrrnh.
AH HA HA


...its terrible power ...
Sieg fried...
If you only knew ...
Guard that ring well.
SLIP


...you'd come begging us...
...to take it off your hands.

Sieg-fried ...
As long as you wear it..
...you're in terrible danger.
SWIP
Suit yourself, then!
GLINT

...
you too will be killed.
And before the day is done!
Just as you killed the dragon for it...
The ring is made of Rhine Gold.
It's borne its maker's curse ever since he lost it.
An eternal curse... Whoever wears it is doomed to die.

Only the Rhine can cleanse it of its curse.
If you want to escape that fate, toss the ring in
Siegfried ...
It's the truth
You really think you can scare me?
Enough already!
But in the end, he couldn't frighten me.
The dragon tried to warn me of a curse, too...
No problem. I'll just sever it with Nothung.
You must escape the curse.
...which the Three Norns weave.
The curse is woven into the rope...

This ring lays the world at my feet.
I'd gladly hand it over for love, but...
...you won't persuade me to do it out of fear.
Besides, I don't want to live forever.
Let's go... That's enough out of this dolt!
He had the greatest treasure of all in Brunnhilde ...
...and he doesn't even know he abandoned her.
But the death-dealing ring...
Oh, that he keeps!
He thinks he's so clever and strong...
...but he's just a prisoner of fate.
He swears oaths he can't even keep.

Farewell, Siegfried!
Today a woman will most certainly have that ring from you.
That woman will hear our pleas.
Come, sisters, let's go see her.
Wai-ya...
La la ...
La ...
...
VROOO
VAROOO
He, there!
There you are.
We've found you.
!!

Did you catch your quarry, Siegfried?
It got away.
Unless you share with me, I'm afraid I won't be eating.
Come down here. It's nice and cool.
All right.
We could use a little rest.
You didn't catch anything?
There were some water fowl.
I wish I'd caught one.
Three of them, there were. They told me I'd die today.
The only thing more pitiful than failing at a hunt would be...
HA HA!
... getting eaten by your prey.
GULP
I'm thirsty.

GULP
They say you can understand birdsong.
Is it true?
Now that you mention it, I haven't listened in a while.
Here, Gunther ...
Have a drink on your brother.
Whoops! I spilled a little.
I guess Mother Earth gets a swig too.
HA HA HA
How stupid can you get...?
Doesn't look too good.
It's just your blood in there.
SPLASH
Then I'll mix it with yours.

I've forgotten what they told me.
But you understood once, didn't you?
WHISPER
Is he sore about Brunnhilde?
If only he understood her as well as...
...you understand the birds, eh?
Gunther.
Stop moping around!
Sounds good.
How about I tell you a story from...
...when I was a child?

Brunn
...
... hilde.
Go on, then...
Let's hear it.

...
So... I was raised by this bossy little Nibelung called Mime.
He had it in mind that when I grew up, I'd get rid of this dragon for him in the forest... a dragon guarding some treasure.

Now, Mime was a blacksmith, but...
...no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't fix the broken sword my father left me.
So I went and...
... reforged Nothung myself.
Mime knew I could finally slay the dragon ...
...so he took me into the forest.
...
And that's where I killed Fafner.

But then a strange thing happened.
Fafner's blood burned my fingers, and without thinking I brought them to my mouth.
...I realized I could understand birdsong.
And ...
...the second I tasted that blood ...
So that's how you got 'em.
And once you find the ring, you can rule the world ...!"
"The Tarnhelm could be very useful.
"Hey!
The Nibelung's treasure is nearly yours, Siegfried!"
Yup.
And the little birds went on...

HA HA HA!
はっはっは
With a single swing of Nothung.
...that sword he couldn't fix!
Well, he at least got to taste ...
And was he?
Did you get back at him?
"Don't listen to Mime's lies.
He's plotting to kill you."
He needs a cup of this wine.
First ...
Hold on ...
What did the birds say then?
So he can remember every little detail.
PLISH
This potion is memory-enhancing ...

So I stopped to listen to the birds in the treetops. They were still there ...
... singing ...
スルッ
FWIT
I suddenly felt so lonely...
GLUG
GLUG
...
FLAASHH
"Don't we know the perfect girl for him?
She sleeps in a circle of flames ...
...on a craggy mountaintop ..."
"All he has to do is cross the flames and wake her up...

...
...and Brünnhilde will be his!"
So did you go?
Brunn-hilde!
I set out at once...!

...fast asleep in her shiny armor.
...crossed the flames, and there she was ...
I climbed the burning rock...
I took off her helmet and...
... I woke her with a kiss.
Then ...
She took me in her arms!
What the ...!?
CAW CAW!

...
Did you catch what those ravens said?
It sounded like they said... "Take your revenge!"

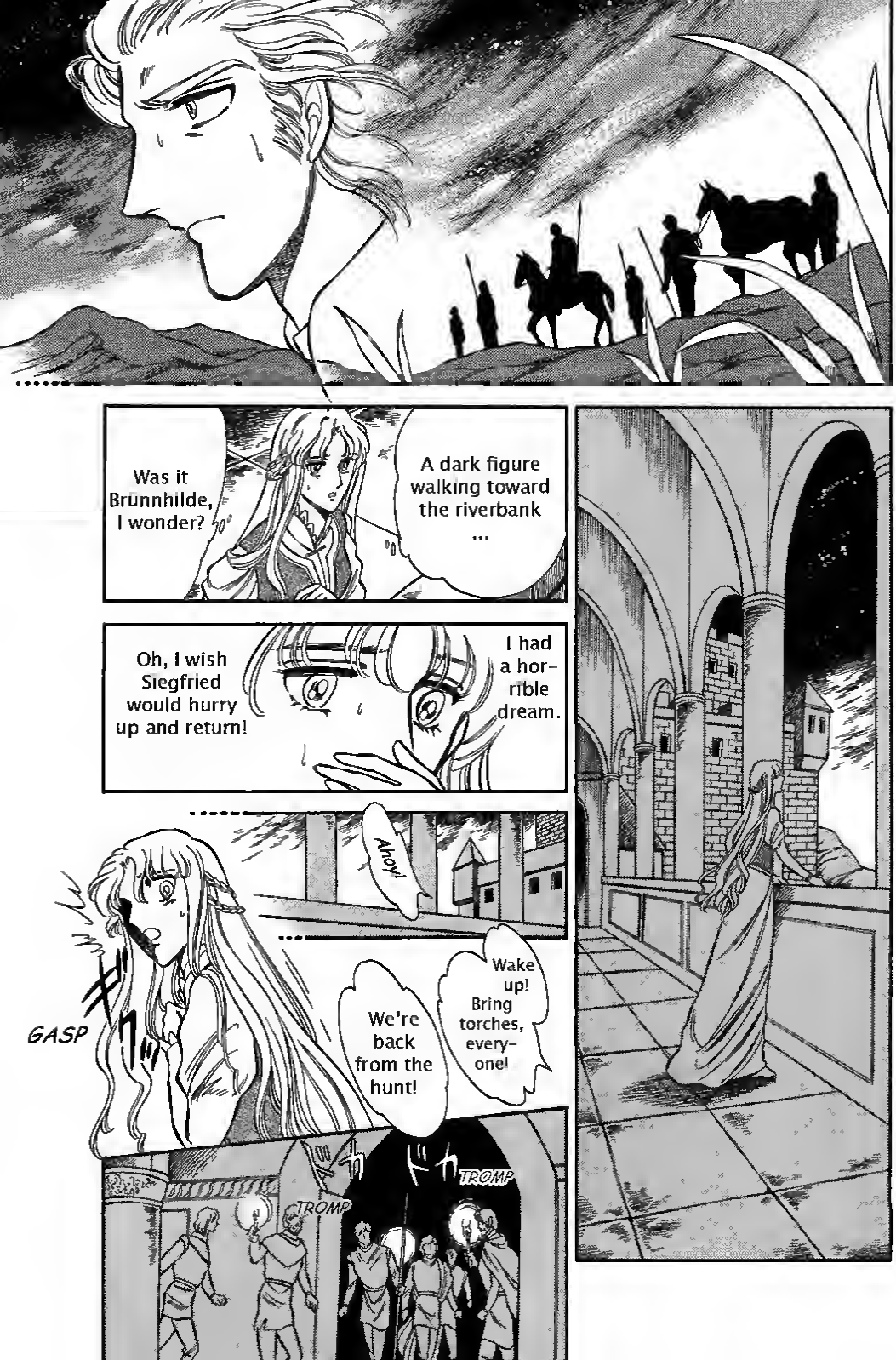
UNGH
THUD
FLAP
FLAP

FLAP
Hagen ...
What have you...
Hagen ...
What is this ...?
It is justice!

FWOOSH
Brunnhilde
...
...
...

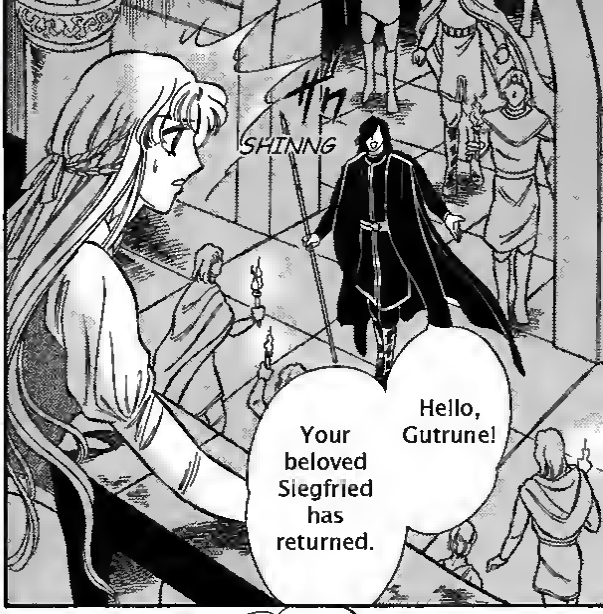
... hallowed wife...
Open your eyes ...
Who has cursed you again with sleep...?
I'm here to wake you.
No more will you be bound.

Open your eyes, Brunnhilde!
Open them once and for all.
Ah, how she smiles at me!
SLUD

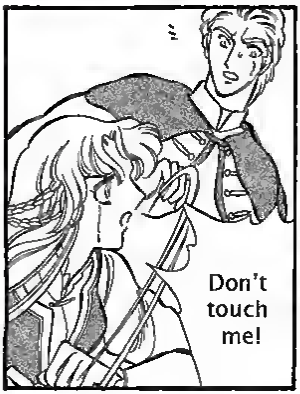

Was it Brünnhilde, I wonder?
A dark figure walking toward the riverbank ...
Oh, I wish Siegfried would hurry up and return!
I had a horrible dream.
Ahoy!
GASP
We're back from the hunt!
Wake up! Bring torches, everyone!
TROMP
TROMP

Wh– what's happened!? Hagen?
What is that you're dragging?

The pale hero...


SHINNG
Hello, Gutrune!
Your beloved Siegfried has returned.

EEEYAHH
...and sad victim of a wild boar. Your husband!


Don't touch me!

Calm down, Gutrune!

He's been murdered ...
You killed him, I know it!
Such harsh words.
Don't blame me.
It was Hagen! He's the loathsome boar in all this!
I hope you suffer for all eternity!
Fine!
I did kill him.
He shouldn't have perjured himself on my spear.
...the ring!
Now I claim my reward...

It's not yours to claim!
Surely ...
Everyone knows it is my right!
KR-SHING
Gutrune is its rightful owner now.
You won't touch it! Filthy half-breed! Son of a dwarf!
What belonged to the dwarf goes to his son!
HRAAA
PLOP

ARGHH
The ring is mine...!
SHEEEN
AAGHH
SRRP
GASP

...
Silence.
You sound like wailing children.
He deserves a hero's funeral. Not this.

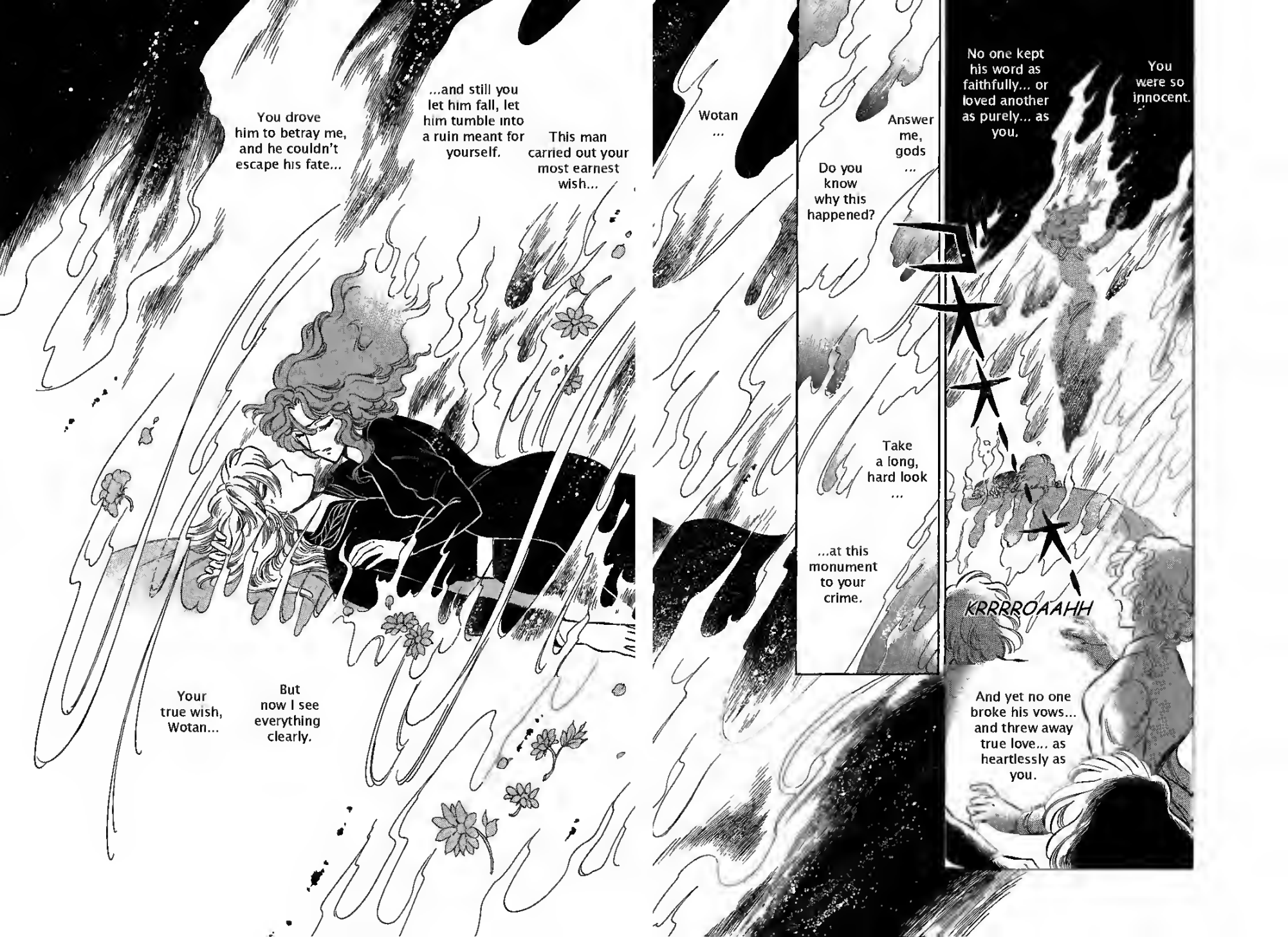
Poor wretch ...
You were never his wife.
You were merely his passing fancy.
No, his real wife...
Brunn-hilde.
This is your fault! You've brought ruin on our noble house!
And he pledged her his everlasting love...
...he met long before you...
My bro-ther..
Poor bro-ther!
...
... giving him that potion ...
All part of your plan! You tricked me into...
...but he was already married ....
SLUMP
No ...
Oh... no...
All of this was your doing, Hagen...
I see now.

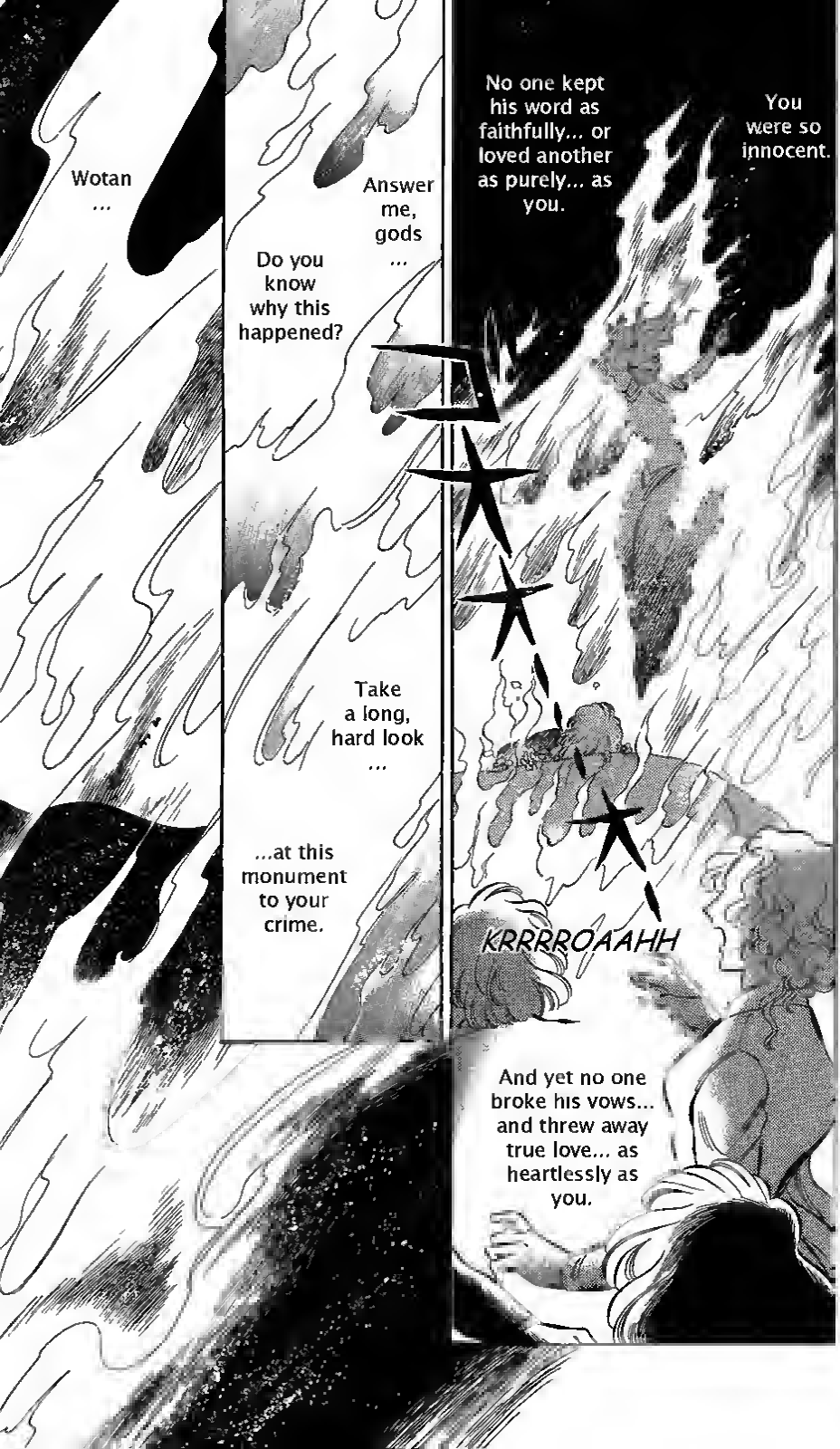
...
Build him a pyre on the banks of the Rhine...
...so that we may send him off properly.
...

And I will ...
...burn with him ...
...in his arms ...
...
and we will finally be as one again.
...
The cursed ring...
...is all he left me.
SLIP
Oh, Rhine Maidens!
I return to you what you so fervently desire.
Come retrieve it from my ashes.

Its curse will be cleansed by the fire.
FWOOSH
Guard it well in the deep ...
...where it can't be stolen again ...
Ravens of Wotan!
Fly back now to your master, and tell him what you saw by the Rhine.
Soar over that fiery crag...
...and tell Loge it's time for him to visit Valhalla

FROOOAR
And now ...
...I set fire to that mighty fortress.
Siegfried ...
Siegfried ...
Sieg...


You drove him to betray me, and he couldn't escape his fate...
...and still you let him fall, let him tumble into a ruin meant for yourself.
This man carried out your most earnest wish...
Your true wish, Wotan...
But now I see everything clearly.
Wotan ...
Answer me, gods ...
Do you know why this happened?
Take a long, hard look ...
...at this monument to your crime.
No one kept his word as faithfully... or loved another as purely... as you.
You were so innocent.
KRRRROAAHH
And yet no one broke his vows... and threw away true love... as heartlessly as you.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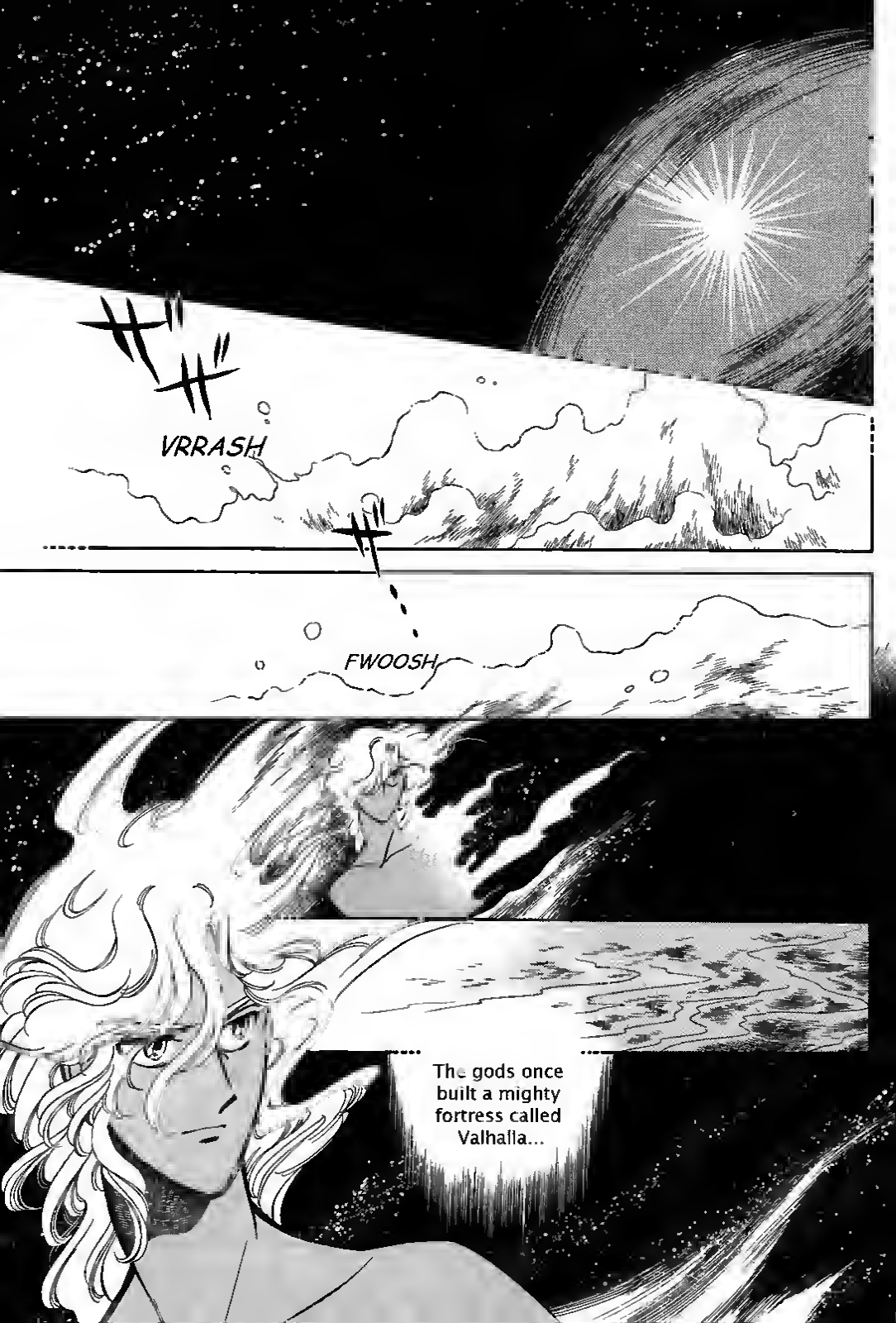
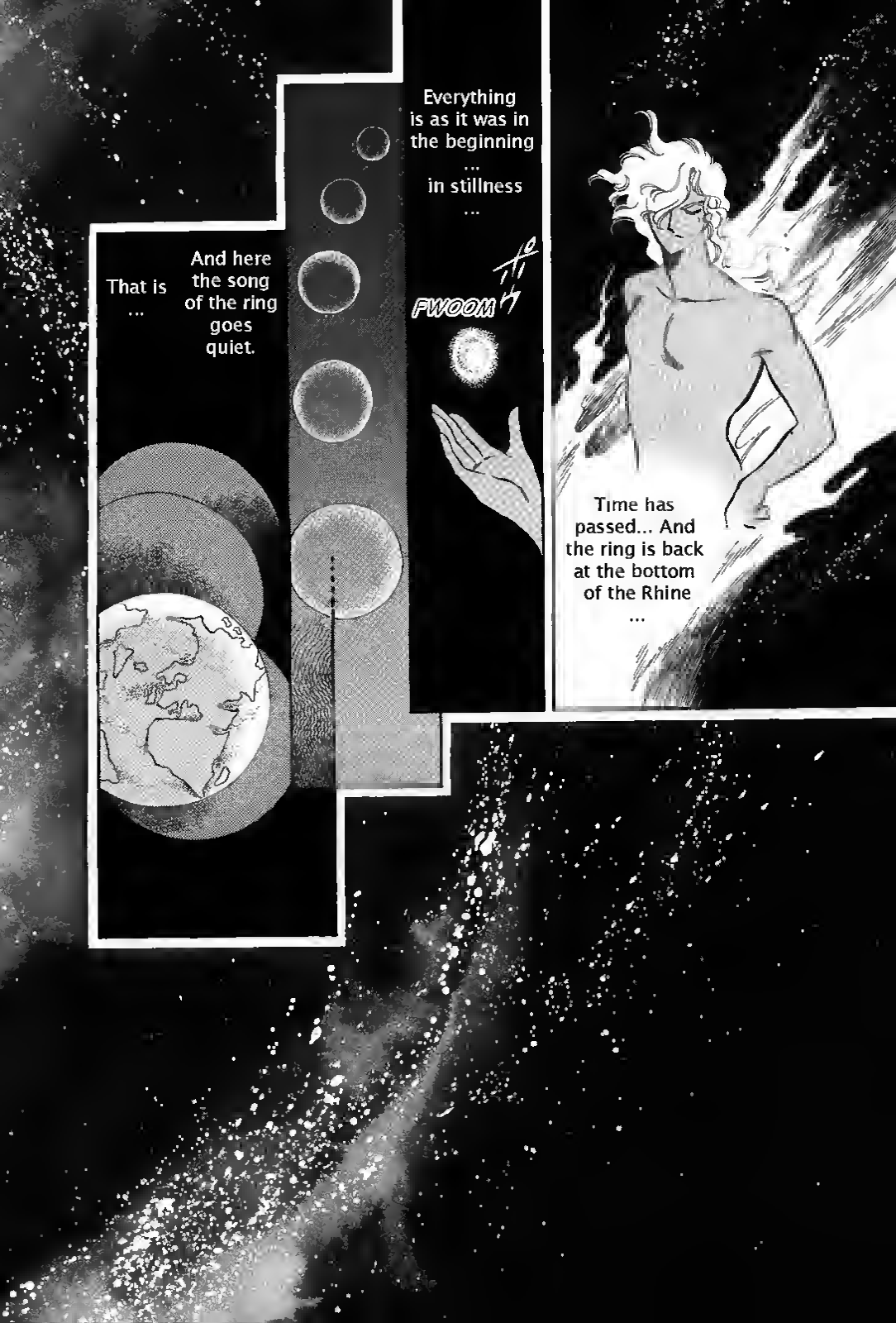
SPUT-T-T
The message you truly longed to hear... I told it to...
...your ravens...
I entrusted them with that which you want and fear the most... Your own downfall.
May you rest in peace!
AAAGHH
FROOOAR
HRAAAAH

KRAASSH
It's...
...over-flowing!
The Rhine...
Aaaghh!
Run!
AAAHHH
AAAHHH
GASP

That's
my ring!

AAAHHH
FROOOAR


VRRASH
FWOOSH
The gods once built a mighty fortress called Valhalla...


That is ...
And here the song of the ring goes quiet.
Everything is as it was in the beginning ... in stillness ...
PWOOM
Time has passed... And the ring is back at the bottom of the Rhine ...

...until the next time the curtain rises.
"The Ring of the Nibelung The End"

Ring of the Nibelung Vol.4

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